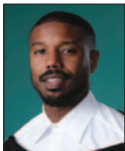


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Michael B. Jordan invites fans to see a drive-in movie, on him
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VIRUS OUTBREAK



TED S. WARREN/AP

A subject receives a shot in the first-stage safety study clinical trial of a potential vaccine by Moderna for COVID-19 at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in Seattle in March.

SHOT — of — HOPE

First COVID-19 vaccine tested in US poised for final testing

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

The first COVID-19 vaccine tested in the U.S. revved up people's immune systems just the way scientists had hoped, researchers reported Tuesday — as the shots are poised to begin key final testing.

"No matter how you slice this, this is good news," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, told The Associated Press.



The experimental vaccine, developed by Fauci's colleagues at the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., will start its most important step around July 27: A 30,000-person study to prove if the shots really are strong enough to protect against the coronavirus.

But Tuesday, researchers reported anxiously awaited findings from the first 45 volunteers who rolled up their sleeves back in March.

SEE VACCINE ON PAGE 10

House bill has funding to rename Army posts

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A draft of the 2021 defense funding bill approved Tuesday by a key House panel would support efforts to strip Army installations of Confederate-linked names, block Pentagon money for border wall construction and boost pay for troops.

The \$694.6 billion version of the 2021 Defense Appropriations Act passed by the House Appropriations Committee would provide \$1 million for the Army to rename 10 southern installations named for Confederate generals from the Civil War. After four hours of public debate, the bill passed Tuesday by a vote of 30-22, along party lines.

Democratic committee members, who lead the panel, praised the bill as an effort that takes strides to improve service members' day-to-day lives and advances U.S. national security efforts.

"Most importantly, the bill continues to focus on the well-being and morale of those in uniform and their families, [Defense Department] civilians and their communities," said Rep. Pete Visclosky, D-Ind., the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's defense subpanel.

The wide-ranging bill would give American troops a 3% pay raise for the second consecutive year — the first back-to-back 3% boost in a decade. That effort matches a White House request and draft legislation passed recently by the Senate and House Armed Services Committees.

It also backs a White House effort to boost the size of the military, adding about \$7.5 billion for some 12,000 new troops. It also includes about \$450 million for coronavirus-related efforts.

SEE FUNDING ON PAGE 6

■ DODEA plans to reopen classrooms this fall with virtual option available Page 8

Apple wins EU case over \$15B in claimed taxes

"Ireland has always been clear that there was no special treatment provided" to the U.S. company, it said in a statement. "Ireland appealed the Commission Decision on the basis that Ireland granted no state aid and the decision today from the Court supports that view."

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.14
30-year bond	1.30

The map displays the geographical context of the 2nd Weather Squadron's location at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. It highlights the surrounding regions of China, Russia, North Korea, South Korea, and Japan, as well as the Pacific Ocean, Sea of Japan, and Philippine Sea. Key locations and their coordinates are marked: Seoul (82/65), Osan (81/65), Busan (75/63), Sasebo (77/69), Okinawa (84/81), Misawa (66/89), Tokyo (66/63), and Iwakuni (76/71). A legend indicates that the shaded area represents Guam (84/81).

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY



PAOLO BOVO/U.S. Army

Army Gen. Stephen Townsend, right, commander, U.S. Africa Command, passes the U.S. Army Africa command guidon to incoming USARAF commander Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Rohling during a change of command ceremony Wednesday in Vicenza, Italy.

Rohling now leads US Army Africa

BY NORMAN LLAMAS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Maj. Gen. Andrew M. Rohling took charge of U.S. Army Africa on Wednesday at a ceremony in Vicenza marked by minimal attendance and rigorous hygiene measures, due to coronavirus restrictions.

"This is the third COVID-19 compliant change of command ceremony I have attended this month," said Gen. Stephen J. Townsend, the head of U.S. Africa Command, as he officiated the ceremony at Caserma Ederle, where Rohling took over from Maj. Gen. Roger L. Cloutier Jr. "It was also the most disciplined one as I had to sanitize my hands in the middle of the ceremony," Townsend said jokingly.

Cloutier is due to be promoted at the end of July and will assume command of NATO's Allied Land Command in Izmir, Turkey. "Under Cloutier's leadership, exercise African Lion, AFRICOM's largest military ex-

ercise, grew in scope and size," Townsend told the live audience and viewers on Facebook. He was looking forward to the integration of Italian forces into next year's exercise, Townsend said.

Cloutier, who has been in charge since 2018, thanked senior Army leaders who have visited Africa to see what USARAF has been doing.

"Those of us who have traveled to Africa, we know that nothing compares to being there in person and engaging with our partners face-to-face," he said.

Rohling first commissioned in 1989 as an infantry officer and most recently served as the U.S. Army Europe deputy commanding general in Wiesbaden, Germany. He previously served two tours in Italy, one in command of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

"I look forward to the opportunities and the rewards, the challenges and the differences this command will make across the 53 countries of Africa," he said.

llamas.norman@stripes.com
Twitter: @normanllamas

Airman who went missing in South Korea returned to base 'on his own volition'

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A U.S. airman who went missing last week returned "on his own volition" to Osan Air Base nearly a week after he was reported absent from his unit, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The Air Force launched a search for Staff Sgt. Tristin Blake Jarvis, 26, of the 51st Force Support Squadron on July 9, saying he was last seen in the vicinity of the Osan Fitness Center the day before, according to the 51st Fighter Wing.

Jarvis "safely reported to Osan Air Base" at about 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, the 51st Fighter Wing said in a news release.

"He returned on his own volition following encouragement from his family and commander,"

wing spokesman 1st Lt. Daniel de La Fe said Wednesday in an email.

He declined to provide more details, citing the need to protect the privacy of Jarvis and his family.

"The 51st Fighter Wing's main concern is that we provide Staff Sgt. Jarvis the proper care required for his well-being, he said.

Wing commander Col. John Gonzales expressed gratitude to U.S. security forces teams, South Korean police, community partners and people on base "for quickly coming together and helping us locate him safely."

"The Osan is grateful to have Staff Sgt. Jarvis return to his Mustang family," Gonzales said in the press release.

news@stripes.com

AFRICOM: Russian-backed forces using mines in Libya

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Russian-backed mercenaries are planting roadside bombs in the Libyan capital of Tripoli and other key cities as Moscow steps up its support for a warlord attempting to topple the North African country's Western-backed government, U.S. Africa Command said Wednesday.

AFRICOM has "verified photographic evidence" showing mercenaries connected to the Russian state-sponsored Wagner Group placing booby traps and mines in the outskirts of Tripoli and other areas, including the city of Sirte, which lies 285 miles east of the capital on the Mediterranean coast, it said.

"Russia's introduction of landmines, booby traps, attack aircraft, and their continued support of the 2,000-person strong Wagner Group in Libya changes the nature of the current conflict and intensifies the potential risk to non-combatants," AFRICOM said in a statement.

Russian operatives have been planting the devices since June, weeks after the U.S. said Russia sent more than a dozen fighter planes into Libya as part of its effort to prop up the forces of Khalifa Hifter, whose Libya National Army militia has waged a yearslong fight against the country's Western-supported government, AFRICOM said.

At least 14 MIG-29 fighter planes sent to Libya by Russia began operations last month, AFRICOM said at the time. The MIGs were flown first to Syria, where they were painted to camouflage their Russian origin.

"The Russian-state sponsored Wagner Group is demonstrating a total disregard for the safety and security of Libyans," AFRICOM's director of operations, U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Bradford



U.S. Africa Command

This verified image shows a large improvised explosive device hidden in cinder blocks in a residential area in Tripoli, Libya. Russian operatives have been planting the devices in the capital and other areas since last month, U.S. Africa Command said Wednesday.

Gering, said in a statement.

The Russians are "responsible for the needless suffering and the deaths of innocent civilians," the statement said.

Since NATO's 2011 intervention in Libya, which helped militia fighters topple longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, armed conflict between rival factions seeking to gain control has plunged the country into disarray.

The United Nations and the U.S., which doesn't currently have ground troops in the country, support Libya's Government of National Accord. Turkey also backs the national government and has provided significant military aid, while the Libyan National Army, led by Hifter, has Moscow's backing.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

Form change could slow overseas post office visits

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

New electronic customs forms will be required in a month and could result in longer lines at military post offices for service members looking to mail packages back to the United States.

A previously delayed rollout of the U.S. Postal Service's electronic customs forms, which significantly changes how overseas service members mail packages, is set to go into effect Aug. 13, according to U.S. Army Europe's Installation Management Command.

Overseas post offices will stop accepting handwritten customs declaration forms at that time. Military postal officials recom-

mend customers begin adjusting to the change now and familiarize themselves with the new requirement. Customers can fill out and print the correct form online either at home or at computer-equipped kiosks that will be available at military post offices.

"We ask for customers' patience and understanding if the policy change causes longer wait times at the counters. We will continue to do everything we can to support their needs as we implement this new policy," Mike Kinstle, program manager for the postal operations branch at IMCOM-Europe, said in a statement.

After Aug. 13, customers can still fill out customs worksheets at the post office, but they will have to wait as a postal clerk enters the

information into the retail system, Bill Hilscher, chief of postal plans and policy at U.S. Army Europe, said in a statement. This will take time and cause longer lines and wait times, he said.

The change directly relates to forms 2976, 2976-A and 2976-B, according to the Army news release. Packages found with handwritten customs declaration forms after Aug. 13 will be returned to the sender, according to the Postal Service.

The change took effect statewide in March, but officials asked to delay the requirement at overseas military post offices, Hilscher said in February.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

MILITARY

Explosion threat eases as Navy ship burns

By JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A fire aboard a U.S. warship moved away from fuel tanks, easing the threat of an explosion or a million-gallon oil spill in the San Diego harbor, but it was too early to say whether the vessel can be saved, a top Navy official said.

Days of battling flames deep within the USS Bonhomme Richard were burning fruit and the blaze could be declared out sometime Wednesday, said Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, commander of the strike group that includes the Bonhomme Richard as its flagship.

But he cautioned Tuesday that there was still "a major fire inside" being fought by hundreds of sailors who were focusing on two isolated spots near the ship's bow and

stern.

Fuel was stored below the waterline and the risk of it spilling or exploding was now "very low," Sobeck said, although the U.S. Coast Guard was standing by in order to boom off any spill.

Navy officials were able to inspect four main engineering rooms and found no major damage, and the external structure of the ship appears to be safe, Sobeck said, but it was still unclear whether the 840-foot amphibious assault ship can be repaired.

"We haven't been inside the ship well enough to be able to get a full picture," Sobeck said.

It could cost the military an estimated \$4 billion to replace the ship, which is akin to a mini-aircraft carrier.

The Bonhomme Richard was undergo-

ing maintenance when the fire was first reported Sunday morning in a lower cargo area where seafaring tanks are parked. It appears to have started where cardboard boxes, rags and other maintenance supplies were being stored, Sobeck said.

As of early Wednesday, helicopters had dumped 1,500 buckets of water on the ship, cooling the superstructure and flight deck to enable crews to move further inside the ship to fight the blaze, a Navy statement said. Federal and local firefighters also fought the blaze and tugboats threw streams of seawater from the waterline.

More than 60 sailors and civilians have been treated for minor injuries, heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation. None remained hospitalized Wednesday.

Sobeck said the ship's design may have

helped spread the blaze.

"For this class of ship, the open area above the vehicle storage is all open, a big hangar," he said. "Once the fire hit that amount of oxygen, it found other ways to go up."

The fire raced along the ship's ventilation and cables, causing it to traverse the ship. Cables and duct work snaking through hatches as part of the ship's maintenance fed the fire and later created barriers to sailors trying to fight it, Sobeck said.

Also, at least two fire-suppression systems were not able to be used. One was deactivated while the ship was being worked on, and the other was not able to be launched because of an explosion — believed to have been caused by pressure building up when the fire started, Sobeck said.

Sailors share Navy bias stories with new task force

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Before Lt. Destini Henderson was nominated for the U.S. Naval Academy, she experienced her first barrier to her military career from her own congressman.

"I remember meeting with my congressional representative in Huntsville, Texas — that's where I graduated from high school. And he made it pretty clear that he did not believe that I belonged in the Naval Academy. So my very first barrier was from my hometown," she said.

Henderson, of the U.S. Naval Academy Minority Association, was one of several sailors to speak Monday about her experiences with racism and sexism as a Black woman in the Navy during the first roundtable discussion with the leadership of a new task force that aims to address disruptive bias.

Task Force One Navy was established June 29 to recommend reforms in nine key areas, including recruiting, promotion, health care and military justice. Its creation follows other Defense Department efforts to address diversity in the military in response to the national dialogue over the past month about systemic racism in the United States and police brutality.



MICHAEL E. WAGNER/U.S. Navy

The creation of Task Force One Navy follows other Defense Department efforts to address diversity in the military.

The task force members are officers, enlisted personnel and civilians. It is led by Rear Adm. Alvin Holsey, an African American. Force Master Chief Huben Phillips, an African American, is the deputy, and the civilian adviser is Jane Roberts, who is Hispanic. All three listened to sailors' stories during Monday's discussion.

The leaders heard from sailors about racism, sexism and homophobia in the Navy and their recommendations for changes the task force could explore.

Henderson told the task force to assume that there are barriers

everywhere for minorities. She described how her peers at the Naval Academy heckled her when she put her long hair into cornrows. And how the lack of representation at flight school meant she was one of two Black students to graduate.

Henderson was also "the only one that people could turn to" when sailors had questions or wanted to debate race and women's issues.

"Those are things that maybe people don't see as barriers, but it definitely loaded up my plate a lot more than it needed to be. And a lot more than my counter-

parts — white male counterparts, white female counterparts — had to deal with for sure," she said.

Henderson said she wanted to see the task force work on providing education about the history of minorities in the Navy and acknowledgement of their service.

"I think education could absolutely go a long way. I remember taking naval history at the Naval Academy, but I didn't hear anything about minorities in the military, in naval history or anything like that," she said.

Lt. Cmdr. Rolando Machado, of the Association of Naval Services Officers and a Naval Academy graduate, described his experiences as a Hispanic man who could not fully express his true self during his Navy career. Machado said he was raised in Miami and grew up in an environment where Hispanics were the majority. When he arrived at the Naval Academy where Hispanics are not the majority, he said he felt like "a fish out of water" and was not prepared for how the culture there would impact him.

Machado spoke about the time he was berated by a chief petty officer for speaking Spanish with other sailors during a deployment, and that it was implied he was being un-American. He said it made him believe that expressing himself too much would "diminish" his ability to lead.

Another time, a sailor told him that he was "not even Hispanic" because he did not listen to Spanish music or speak Spanish, which is untrue.

"I cannot change who I am to lead, I have to figure out how I lead using my style, but within the service. That's a long time, three years in the Navy to start figuring that out. I'm already behind the power curve," he said.

Sailors want to be able to talk openly about these issues early in their careers, Machado told the task force. "Our culture within the Navy is a Navy culture, and the assimilation does have to occur to Navy culture. And accordingly, Navy culture needs to acclimatize itself to our diversity," he said.

Yeoman First Class Julius Leeds told the task force's leadership that if the Navy is going to train sailors on the inclusion of sex, religion or race, "we first have to teach empathy."

"I think if the Navy focuses on teaching empathy ... sailors can learn or get a sense of how other sailors feel in their shoes," he said.

The first report from the task force will be submitted to Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday by the end of July, and a final report is due by December.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @caitlinkenney

Army official says more details on troop cuts coming soon

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Details on a Pentagon plan to cut nearly 10,000 troops from Germany will be disclosed soon, a top U.S. Army official said Wednesday during a call with reporters.

"How it all specifically will roll out, the mechanical details, will come out in the coming weeks," said Secretary of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy, who was in Poznan, Poland, on Wednesday to meet



McCarthy

to get out in front of my boss on this one," he said.

with soldiers based there.

McCarthy declined to say if the military has already identified the units that would be removed from Germany. "I am not going

Last month, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said President Donald Trump approved a plan to reduce by one-third the number of troops in Germany. Roughly 20,700 of the 34,500 U.S. troops in Germany belong to the Army.

Trump has said that some of the 9,500 troops to be pulled out of Germany could be relocated to other countries in Europe while the rest would be sent back to the U.S.

Some troops are expected to be sent to Poland, which has long

sought a larger American military presence.

The withdrawal would be done in a way to ensure U.S. European Command can still meet its mission, McCarthy said.

The Pentagon said in a statement last month that reducing forces in Germany would "enhance Russian deterrence, strengthen NATO, reassure allies, improve U.S. strategic flexibility and U.S. European Command's operational flexibility."

But it didn't elaborate on how

cutting troop numbers would achieve those aims.

McCarthy declined to go into detail Wednesday when he was asked how the troop reduction would strengthen the military's position in Europe.

Some former military officials and security analysts have said Trump's plan could lead to security risks if most of the 9,500 troops are sent back to the U.S., and could increase costs for the military.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

MILITARY



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

U.S. Attorney William Powell announced Tuesday in Clarksburg, W.Va., that Reta Mays, 46, a former nursing assistant, pleaded guilty to killing seven veterans under her care.

Former VA hospital staffer admits to killing 7 patients

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A former Department of Veterans Affairs nursing assistant admitted in federal court Tuesday to killing seven patients by injecting them with fatal doses of insulin.

Reta Mays, 45, a former staff member at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center in Clarksburg, W.Va., was charged earlier Tuesday with seven counts of second-degree murder, as well as assault with the intent to commit murder. Mays was accused of purposefully



Mays

injecting patients with lethal doses of insulin between July 2017 and June 2018 and attempting to kill an eighth patient.

Mays pleaded guilty on all eight counts Tuesday afternoon as part of a written plea agreement. She faces a maximum penalty of seven life sentences, an additional 20-year prison sentence and \$2 million in fines.

"It is beyond disturbing that someone would seek out the opportunity to work in the health care field, to aid the sick, and then twist their duty and willingly end the life of their patients," said Doug Olson, an FBI agent who worked on the case.

Sentencing will occur at a later date. Her lawyers asked for six months to prepare their defense for a lesser penalty, but Assistant U.S. Attorney Jarod Douglas argued that was too long. Some of the victims' family members were in poor health and wanted to see resolution, he said. District Judge Thomas S. Kleeh scheduled a status update for Oct. 30.

Mays, with cropped brown hair and glasses, sat between her lawyers in U.S. District Court on Tuesday, wearing a white T-shirt and a face mask. The hearing was broadcast over livestream because of restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Under routine questioning by Kleeh, Mays got choked up at one point. She responded with a feeble, "Yes, sir," each time Kleeh

asked whether she wanted to move forward with her guilty plea and understood the consequences.

Mays told the judge she was undergoing VA treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Details of her military background were not immediately known Tuesday.

Mays was hired as a night-shift nursing assistant at the Clarksburg facility in 2015. According to court documents, she was first in July 2018 after the hospital had begun an internal investigation into multiple deaths in her ward. A doctor had noted that several patients in the ward had died from severe hypoglycemia, even though they weren't diabetic.

VA Inspector General Michael Missal said he was informed of the suspicious deaths in June 2018 and immediately sent a team of investigators to the Clarksburg hospital. They identified Mays as a person of interest "within days," he said.

Her victims include Robert Edge Sr., 82, a Navy veteran; Robert Kozul, 89, an Army veteran who served in the Korean War; Archie Edgell, 84, an Army veteran; George Shaw, 83, a career Air Force veteran; Felix McDermott, 82, an Army veteran; and Raymond Golden, 88, a veteran of the Army and Air Force.

One victim, named only as W.A.H. in court records, was a 96-year-old World War II veteran. The final patient, whom Mays attempted to kill, was listed in court records as R.R.P. He was a 92-year-old World War II veteran. R.R.P. died at a nursing home weeks after receiving the dosage of insulin, but medical examiners couldn't determine whether the injection was the cause of death, prosecutors said.

Twenty-six family members of the victims were in the courtroom during the plea hearing Tuesday.

Mays' motivation for the killings remains unknown to prosecutors. William Powell, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, said Mays gave "no satisfactory response" when asked.

"She denied it for a long time, until most recently when she realized the strength of our case," Powell said.

wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Family of slain Fort Hood soldier to meet with Trump

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — The family of slain Fort Hood soldier Spc. Vanessa Guillen accepted an invitation to meet with President Donald Trump at the White House in two weeks, the family's attorney said Wednesday.

Attorney Natalie Khawam said Mark Meadows, White House chief of staff, called to extend the invitation. The meeting is scheduled for July 29, the day before Khawam is scheduled to stand in front of the U.S. Capitol and introduce #IamVanessaGuillen legislation to address sexual harassment and assault in the military.

"Then we will march demanding justice for Vanessa," she said. The protest will start at the Capitol and end at the White House.

Guillen, 20, went missing from Fort Hood on April 22 while working in an arm room with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment's Engineer Squadron. Her remains were found June 30 along a river about 30 miles from the base.

Spc. Aaron Robinson, 20, another soldier in Guillen's squadron, hit and killed her with a hammer, then moved her body, according to court documents. A second suspect, Cecily Aguilar, 22, is in federal custody and was indicted Tuesday on three counts of con-

spiracy to tamper with evidence. Robinson shot himself dead June 30 when approached by civilian law enforcement in Killeen, the town just outside Fort Hood.

Following the confirmation that the human remains found were Guillen's, members of Congress and veteran and Hispanic organizations began sending letters to Defense Department leaders asking for various reviews or investigations into the soldier's disappearance and death, and the Army's investigation into finding her.

They have also called for an investigation and overhaul of the military's program to prevent and report sexual assault and harassment in its ranks, because Guillen's family has said the soldier came to them with an allegation of sexual harassment that she did not feel she could report to her chain of command.

Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy announced Friday that the service has begun recruiting an independent review panel tasked with studying the command climate and culture of Fort Hood. The inspector general for Army Forces Command announced earlier this month that a review of the base's sexual assault and harassment program has begun.

The bill proposed by Khawam would create a third-party agen-

cy to which service members can report instances of sexual harassment and assault, instead of the existing program that requires victims go through another service member or their chain of command.

The bill's name comes from a social media campaign that led to hundreds of service members and veterans sharing their stories of sexual harassment and assault while serving. Many of them wrote their reports went neglected or they were reprimanded or transferred while their perpetrator remained in the unit.

"We are grateful that the president has invited this broken family to his home," Khawam said. "We appreciate the president's support of our bill. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. This is an American issue that requires both Congress and the president's support to get passed and signed into law."

Speaking to Noticias Telemundo on Friday, Trump said he gave "specific orders to do something" about Guillen's case.

Trump also said he asked for a report about those plans to be provided to him Monday, but no further information has been released from the White House.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

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MILITARY

NDAAs amendment targets toxic chemicals

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers presented an extensive amendment to the annual defense spending bill targeting harmful chemicals that have contaminated hundreds of military bases.

The bipartisan measure, headed by Debbie Dingell, D-Mich., is designed to scale back the risks of exposure to toxic fluorinated chemicals known as PFAS, so-called “forever chemicals” because they are not expelled from the human body once ingested. PFAS have been linked to some types of cancer and have contaminated at least 328 U.S. military installations, according to the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit watchdog organization.

“PFAS [chemicals] are poisoning our service members and families and communities around military bases,” Dingell said in a call with reporters Tuesday. “These harmful chemicals are found everywhere and much of the source contamination leads back to military facilities who aren’t taking the steps to clean up PFAS contamination.”

The amendment to the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act is identical to Dingell’s PFAS Action Act, which passed the

Toxic PFAS chemicals have been found in firefighting foam, which the military has used for decades. ... Recent data from the Environmental Working Group found 28 bases with PFAS levels in drinking water above state standards.

House in January with the support of 24 Republicans. It requires the Environmental Protection Agency to list PFAS chemicals, including those found in firefighting foam that military bases use, as hazardous to get its Superfund grants for cleanup, and directs the EPA to set enforceable federal drinking water standards.

Dingell said the NDAA is a vehicle to move the chemical legislation into law, after the bill went dark in the Senate. After the PFAS Action Act passed through the Democratic-controlled House, the White House rebuked it and threatened to veto it if Senate Republicans approved it.

“This is one of the areas we’ve really battled with the administration ... It’s where we have strong bipartisan support ... This is a very dangerous substance that the EPA has not done enough ... The EPA is continuing to allow new PFAS onto the

market,” Fitzpatrick said Tuesday. He added that the focus is not exclusively on military bases due to the chemical’s far-reaching impacts.

The White House put out a statement saying the bill would “require the Administration to bypass well-established processes, procedures, and legal requirements of the Nation’s most fundamental environmental laws,” including the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. “By truncating the rulemaking process,” the White House’s statement said, “this legislation risks undermining public confidence in the EPA’s decisions, and also risks the imposition of unnecessary costs on States, public water systems, and others responsible for complying with its prescriptive mandates.”

Toxic PFAS chemicals have been found in firefighting foam, which the military

has used for decades. The foam has been found to contaminate groundwater and well water around bases. Recent data from the EWG found 28 bases with PFAS levels in drinking water above state standards.

PFAS are also found in a wide range of consumer products used since the 1940s and have been found in cookware, pizza boxes, dental floss and stain repellents. According to the EPA, PFAS chemicals can cause harm to the immune system, impact infant birth weights, cause cancer or disrupt thyroid hormone production.

More than 100 Army installations were discovered to have drinking water contaminated with PFAS, according to a recent report from the Army conducted by EWG. The highest levels were found in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; National Guard’s Joint Training Base in Los Alamitos, Calif.; and Belmont Armory, Mich.

The EPA designates per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, as “a category of manmade chemicals that are found in everyday items.” The chemicals build up in the human body over time and are not able to be broken down by the environment.

beynon.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @StevenBeynon

Funding: Several issues in legislation are likely to draw a veto from Trump

FROM FRONT PAGE

But the bill was not supported by the committee’s GOP members, including its top Republican, Rep. Kay Granger of Texas, who voted against it because she said she believed even if passed in its current form it would be rejected by President Donald Trump.

Granger listed several issues included in the legislation likely to draw a veto from Trump, including the provisions aimed at blocking the Pentagon from diverting any of its funds to support wall construction along the U.S.-Mexico border and stripping Army posts of Confederate namesakes.

“We’ll have to drop or modify controversial language that could jeopardize this bill’s chances of being signed into law,” Granger said at the outset of debate on the bill. “This bill is simply too important to be slowed down by politics.”

The bill must be passed by Sept. 30 alongside another — the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets the Pentagon’s spending and policy priorities — to provide the Defense Department an on-time budget. Lawmakers, however, have said it is unlikely either will be passed on time, though they are hopeful to approve the measures by late fall.

Trump has already vowed to veto any legislation that reaches his desk that would rename any U.S. military installations, and is unlikely to accept any efforts to slow the building of border

wall, which was one of the central themes of his 2016 presidential campaign.

Democrats, who lead the committee, have balked at Trump’s actions in recent years to divert nearly \$15 billion of Pentagon money meant for military construction, purchasing equipment for National Guard troops and other activities to fund the border barrier instead. The 2021 spending bill would block the Pentagon from moving money appropriated for specific items to border wall funds and it would cap the Defense Department’s ability to shift any funds in its budget at \$1.9 billion.

Visclosky said Congress holds the power to set how the federal government spends its money. He likened the Trump-led efforts to reprogram defense monies into wall construction to theft, and he argued, in doing so, the Pentagon has “irreparably damaged the department’s credibility with the committee.”

“The sense of entitlement in these actions is galling,” Visclosky said. “And I hope that at some point the [Defense] Department will have the leadership in place who recognizes Congress’s constitutional prerogative and restores trust to the appropriations process.”

Granger has long supported the use of Pentagon funding for the border wall, which she said was a national security necessity. She and other Republicans on Tuesday unsuccessfully attempted to remove those provisions from the bill.

The \$1 billion appropriation to fund name changes for the 10 Army posts named for Confederate generals in former Confederate states during the Jim Crow era of the early 1900s is the first legislative effort to put a dollar amount on the effort. Army and Pentagon leaders in recent weeks have signaled they were open to a discussion on renaming those posts, however Trump has firmly asserted installation names would not change during his administration.

Measures to change the names of those posts were included in draft versions of the fiscal year 2021 NDAA approved by the Senate and House Armed Services Committee in recent weeks. The Senate’s version would give the service about three years to change the names, while the lower chamber’s version would change them within one year.

The draft version of the House Appropriations Committee’s bill would rename “installations, facilities, roads, and streets named after Confederate leaders and officers.”

The U.S. military’s top general last week indicated to House Armed Services Committee members that he supported a review of the Army posts’ names, calling the war efforts by the Confederate states “an act of treason.”

“Those officers turned their backs on their oath,” Army Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said in public testimony Thursday before the committee.

Trump is also unlikely to ap-



The National Defense Authorization Act legislation includes a provision for removing the names of Confederate generals from U.S. Army bases, like Fort Bragg in Fayetteville, N.C., which President Donald Trump has said he would veto.

prove of measures included in the bill that would repeal the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for the Use of Military Force and limit his ability to launch a war against Iran.

Those measures were added to the bill Tuesday via amendments proposed by Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., and passed largely along partisan lines. The measures, Lee said, were meant to restore the power of Congress to declare war.

The AUMFs have for nearly two decades authorized combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and other locations largely in the Middle East and Africa. Lee has labeled them outdated, providing the president overly broad power to wage war. Their repeals were also included in the committee’s draft of the 2020 defense spending bill, but were not included in

the final, approved versions of the appropriations bill.

Lee’s effort would give lawmakers eight months after the bill’s adoption to craft new authorizations to allow U.S. forces to continue efforts overseas against terrorist groups. Republicans argued it was too short a window to ensure American troops were legally able to continue operations.

“You have to replace this with something, because we do have troops deployed in the [Middle East] and it is important that they have legal justification and authorization for being there,” said Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla. “This is a very difficult thing. It doesn’t change the basic reality that we do need to look at [the AUMFs]. We do need to reclaim our war-making authority.”

dstickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Japan alarmed over US forces' control of virus

By SETH ROBSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The commander of U.S. Forces Japan on Wednesday admonished his personnel to adhere to public health restrictions a day after the country's defense minister cited "a number of problems" with military personnel arriving during the coronavirus pandemic.

Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider's comments — delivered via a video message posted to Twitter that tagged Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki — came the same day that 36 new cases were reported at the Marine Corps' Camp Hansen on the southern island prefecture.

An Okinawa prefectural health official confirmed the Hansen cases to Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday. They are the latest in clusters exceeding 100 infections that erupted a week ago at Camp Hansen and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

At a news conference Tuesday, which was recorded and posted on the ministry's website, Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono singled out a U.S. military family that traveled Monday on a domestic flight to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, in western Japan, after arriving at Haneda Airport in metro Tokyo. The family, Kono said, gave false information about their travel plans and later came up positive for the coronavirus.

Kono also cited the U.S. practice, which he said is "unacceptable," of military personnel newly arrived on Okinawa in an off-base hotel during their 14-day mandated quarantine.

Schneider, in his video message, called the coronavirus a challenge that will be around for

the foreseeable future.

He and USFJ's senior enlisted leader, Chief Master Sgt. Rich Winegardner Jr., urged U.S. personnel in Japan to obey rules aimed at curbing the virus' spread.

"We are relying on all of you, whether you are a service member, a dependent, government civilian, contractor or anyone who lives or works on our bases," Schneider said. "We must each continue making good decisions and reducing our risk of exposure ... our response as a community to this challenge has direct consequences on our Japanese partners."

Winegardner, in the same video, added: "No leader wants to see restrictions increase again but we might have to if the situation requires it."

Americans generally are denied entry to Japan due to the pandemic. U.S. service members, Defense Department civilian employees, contractors and their families are the exception; however, they must quarantine upon arrival and refrain from using public transportation to the quarantine site.

The U.S. personnel who traveled to MCAS Iwakuni — a service member, a woman and a young girl — were tested for coronavirus when they arrived Sunday at Haneda, according to a report Tuesday in the Asahi newspaper.

They told airport authorities that they would drive to the air station but instead took a commercial flight to Iwakuni Kintai-kyo Airport on Monday morning, Kono said.

The three family members' test results all came back positive Monday afternoon after they ar-



JUAN CARPANZANO/U.S. Marine Corps

A Marine waits to conduct temperature checks and screen personnel at Camp Courtney, Okinawa, on Monday.

rived in Iwakuni, he said.

"It is an extremely serious situation and we have urged the U.S. side to take discipline strictly and to take thorough preventative measures so this will never happen again," Kono said. "I spoke with the U.S. side and they said they will take strict disciplinary action."

Yamaguchi prefecture and Iwakuni city wrote to Marine Corps officials urging them to follow the rules, according to an official at Yamaguchi Prefectural Office.

Japanese officials informed MCAS Iwakuni about the positive test result on Monday, base spokesman Marine 1st Lt. Philip Parker said in an email Wednesday.

Once they arrived, the individuals who tested positive were quarantined on base and "have not left their residence since going inside," Parker said. "The risk of exposure to new contacts is low."

He said MCAS Iwakuni is working with local health authorities on contact tracing on and off base.

"The circumstances of this incident are still under investigation. MCAS Iwakuni is reinforcing with our community the policies they must abide by when returning to Japan from the U.S. via commercial flights," he said. "Failure to abide by these policies increases the risk to our host nation and local population and may result in disciplinary action."

Meanwhile, MCAS Iwakuni on Wednesday afternoon announced another coronavirus case among its personnel.

"The individual arrived to Japan via Kansai Airport and was transported to MCAS Iwakuni in a personal vehicle, where, upon arrival, immediately entered restriction of movement at their residence," a statement said.

On Okinawa, officials from the Defense Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Okinawa Prefectural Government and Chatan town inspected an off-base hotel where incoming U.S. personnel are quarantined, Kono said.

No issues were found, and Marines are on watch at the hotel exits, he said.

The hotel is used only to quar-

antine newly arrived personnel; none of the U.S. personnel staying there have been in contact with anyone infected by the coronavirus, Kono said.

U.S. military officials have said new arrivals will be quarantined at Kadena Air Base starting next week, he added.

Marine Corps Installations Pacific on Tuesday said it would move its new arrivals out of hotels in town to lodging on Camp Foster to serve their quarantine. Only outbound personnel would be permitted to stay in town, according to spokesman Maj. Ken Kunze.

The Marine Corps on Okinawa was struck with a cluster of coronavirus cases last week that surged over the weekend and prompted lockdowns at MCAS Futenma and Camp Hansen. One case at Camp Kinser was also reported to Okinawa health authorities.

Stars and Stripes reporter Aya Ichihashi contributed to this report. robson.seth@stars.com kusunoto.hana@stars.com Twitter: @SetHRobson

US Forces Korea urges troops to follow rules at beaches

By MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — U.S. Forces Korea has called on service members and others in the military community to follow local anti-coronavirus guidelines, including wearing masks on public beaches in South Korea.

A notice posted Wednesday on the command's Facebook page follows complaints earlier this month by residents that troops held disruptive Fourth of July parties on the popular Haeundae Beach in the southern city of Busan.

Some 200 beaches formally opened for the season on July 1, but the South Korean government has imposed strict rules aimed at preventing the spread of

the respiratory virus.

USFK listed several guidelines and said they apply to all troops, family members and civilian employees:

■ Try to maintain at least 3 feet from others.

■ Wear face masks when out of water, especially in crowded areas such as public restrooms and food stands.

■ Practice good hygiene such as washing hands thoroughly and refraining from spitting, handshakes, "or any other action that could lead to droplet transmissions such as singing or screaming."

Meanwhile, Busan officials tightened the rules for wearing masks on Haeundae Beach effective Monday, with a warning for the first violation and a fine as high as about \$2,500 for subsequent infractions.

Eating and drinking alcohol on the beach also is prohibited.

Concerns about beach behavior arose over the Fourth of July weekend, when nearly 200 police were dispatched to Haeundae Beach to break up parties after local residents reported more than 70 complaints.

USFK issued a statement expressing regret for "the inconvenience and disruption this behavior caused the people of Busan," and promising to cooperate with South Korean law enforcement authorities in efforts to identify those responsible.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report. keeler.matthew@stars.com Twitter: @MattKeeler1231



MOBIUS/Wikimedia Commons

About 200 police were dispatched to break up the festivities July 4 on Haeundae Beach in Busan, South Korea, after receiving more than 70 complaints about fireworks and other unruly behavior by U.S. service members.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

DODEA to reopen schools, have virtual option

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — All of the Pentagon's 160 schools will reopen classrooms in the fall if local health conditions allow, while a virtual option also will be available to students, school officials said Wednesday.

"The safety of students and our teachers is most important and the imperative to get children back to class for learning," said Tom Brady, the director of the Department of Defense Education Activity.

"It's not taken lightly," he said of the decision to resume classroom learning.

The anticipated return to school for 69,000 students and 8,700 educators worldwide comes after months of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

DODEA rolled out a digital learning plan when facilities began closing last spring as the pandemic began to spread. Brady said schools are prepared to return to that if necessary.

"We've got to be flexible," he said. "If there's any indication that there's a spike (in infections), we'll work with our local



BRIAN FERGUSON/Stars and Stripes

Students salute the flag during the national anthem on the first day of school at Vogelweh Elementary School, in Kaiserslautern, Germany, in August 2019. The Department of Defense Education Activity plans to open all schools as scheduled for the 2020-21 school year, as long as local health conditions are favorable.

commanders and go back to the digital platform that we did last year because safety is the most important thing we're concerned about."

Most schools plan to open on time and as scheduled, officials

said. The exceptions, for now, are eight DODEA schools located in Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, whose opening dates in August will shift up to three weeks due to increased coronavirus infection rates.

The virtual school program will begin Aug. 24 and parents when signing up their child for the program must agree to one full semester, with an option for the entire year.

DODEA's virtual high school for grades 9-12 is expanding to include elementary and middle school. Students enrolled in virtual school will not be able to participate in any extracurricular activities.

Schools will adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other guidelines, and coordinate with local military commanders, who review and update the health protection condition for their installations.

Social distancing will be a key component of protecting the health of students, staff and families, Brady said. The extent of social distancing to be implemented in schools depends on the health protection condition, also known as HPCON.

In guidance published online, DODEA laid out social distancing strategies in classrooms, cafeterias, playgrounds and other areas.

"There is no single solution to

this challenge," the guidance said. "The diversity of our geography, building structures, HPCON levels and student needs necessitates a wide range of options."

In the classroom, options include spacing desks or seating at least 6 feet apart where possible, turning desks to face in the same direction and using tape on the floor to indicate proper distancing.

Mask wearing by students and staff will depend on the HPCON level and what distancing is possible.

Physical education classes could be conducted outdoors and schools may stagger mealtimes in the cafeteria, and avoid having students line up by creating an ordering method.

Schools would close if an installation went to HPCON Charlie — indicating substantial and sustained community transmission of the virus.

Schools no longer give perfect attendance awards, so children won't be penalized for being ill, officials said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown

Administration rescinds rule on colleges, foreign students

By COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

BOSTON — Facing eight federal lawsuits and opposition from hundreds of universities, the Trump administration Tuesday rescinded a rule that would have required international students to transfer or leave the country if their schools held classes entirely online because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The decision was announced at the start of a hearing in a federal lawsuit in Boston brought by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs said. Several immigration authorities agreed to pull the July 6 directive and "return to the status quo."

A lawyer representing the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said only that the judge's characterization was correct.

The announcement brings relief to thousands of foreign students who had been at risk of being deported from the country, along with hundreds of universities that were scrambling to reassess their plans for the fall in light of the policy. With the policy rescinded, ICE will revert to a directive from March that suspended typical limits around online education for foreign students.

ICE did not immediately comment on the decision. Harvard President Lawrence

Bacow called it a "significant victory."

"While the government may attempt to issue a new directive, our legal arguments remain strong and the Court has retained jurisdiction, which would allow us to seek judicial relief immediately to protect our international students should the government again act unlawfully," Bacow said in a statement.

MIT's president said his institution also stands ready "to protect our students from any further arbitrary policies."

"This case also made abundantly clear that real lives are at stake in these matters, with the potential for real harm," President L. Rafael Reif said in a statement. "We need to approach policy making, especially now, with more humanity, more decency — not less."

Under the policy, international students in the U.S. would have been forbidden from taking all their courses online this fall. New visas would not have been issued to students at schools planning to provide all classes online, which includes Harvard. Students already in the U.S. would have faced deportation if they didn't transfer schools or leave the country voluntarily.

Even if an outbreak had forced colleges to move all their classes online during the semester, international students would have been forced to transfer to a school with campus instruction or leave

the country.

Immigration officials issued the policy last week, reversing the earlier guidance from March 13 telling colleges that limits around online education would be suspended during the pandemic. University leaders believed the rule was part of President Donald Trump's effort to pressure the nation's schools and colleges to reopen this fall even as new virus cases rise.

The policy drew sharp backlash from higher education institutions, with more than 200 signing court briefs supporting the challenge by Harvard and MIT. Colleges said the policy would put students' safety at risk and hurt schools financially. Many schools rely on tuition from international students, and some stood to lose millions of dollars in revenue if the rule had taken hold.

The unexpected decision was welcome news to students across the nation who had been on edge. "I feel relief," said Andrea Calderon, a 29-year-old biology graduate student from Ecuador. "It would have been a very big problem if I had to leave the country right now."

The City College of New York student said returning home would have made it much harder to finish her thesis and pursue a Ph.D. Internet access at home in Ecuador is spotty, she said, and going through the process to come back to the U.S. in the future would be too expensive.



Sue Osocka/AP

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt announced Wednesday that he's tested positive for the coronavirus and that he is isolating at home.

Okla. governor says he has tested positive

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt announced Wednesday that he's the first governor in the United States to test positive for the coronavirus and that he is isolating at home.

Stitt, 48, a Republican, said he mostly feels fine, although he started feeling "a little achy" Tuesday and sought a test. He said his wife and children were also tested Tuesday and that none of them have tested positive.

Stitt has backed one of the country's most aggressive reopening plans, resisted any statewide mandate on masks and rarely wears one himself.

"We respect people's rights

... to not wear a mask," Stitt said during Wednesday's news conference, held virtually. "You just open up a big can of worms."

"A lot of businesses are requiring it, and that's fine. I'm just hesitant to mandate something that I think is problematic to enforce," he said.

Stitt attended President Donald Trump's rally in Tulsa last month, which health experts have said likely contributed to a surge in coronavirus cases there. Stitt said he's confident he didn't contract the virus at the rally.

Stitt came under fire early in the pandemic after he tweeted a photo of himself and his children eating at a crowded restaurant.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Resurgence forces countries to bring back restrictions

Associated Press

PROMACHONAS, Greece — Countries around the world are reimposing lockdowns and implementing new health checks at their borders in an effort to curb a resurgence of the coronavirus before it spins even further out of control.

Starting Wednesday, all travelers arriving in Greece from a land border with Bulgaria were required to carry negative coronavirus test results issued in the previous 72 hours and translated into English. The new rules, which follow an increase in tourism-related COVID-19 cases, triggered an immediate drop in arrivals compared to recent days.

Romania's president, citing the rising number of infections, announced Wednesday a 30-day extension for the nationwide state of alert. Measures include the mandatory wearing of face coverings on public transportation and in shops, while restaurants may only serve customers in outdoor locations. The country set a record for new infections Saturday.

Residents of Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne, were warned Wednesday to comply with lockdown regulations or face tougher restrictions. Melbourne's 5 million people and part of the city's semi-rural surroundings are a week into a new, six-week lockdown to contain a new outbreak there.

The time for warnings, the time for cutting people slack, is over," Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews said. "Where we are in is a very serious and deadly position."

The developments come with more than 13 million cases of coronavirus confirmed worldwide, and with over 578,000 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The actual numbers are thought to be far higher due to a number of reasons including limited testing.

In Serbia, which has been hit hard by a spike in infections and anti-government protests, a government crisis team expanded a ban on gatherings of more than 10 people from Belgrade to encompass the entire country. Masks were also made mandatory in public spaces where there is no opportunity for around 5 feet of distancing, such as in lines to enter shops and bus stations.

Renewed restrictions took effect in Hong Kong on Wednesday, with public gatherings limited to four people, restaurants restricted to takeout after 6 p.m. and a one-week closure for gyms, karaoke bars and selected other businesses. Masks were mandated on public transit for the first time, with the noncompliant being fined.

After a surge in daily infec-

tions beginning last month, Israel moved last week to reimpose restrictions, closing events spaces, live show venues, bars and clubs. It has imposed lockdowns on areas with high infection rates, which has sparked protests from residents in some cases.

Officials warn that if case numbers don't come down in the coming days, Israel will have no choice but to lock the entire country down again, as it did in the spring.

"I don't see what other tools we have aside from a lockdown," Israeli Health Minister Yuli Edelstein told the Israeli news site Ynet. "Unless there is a miracle."

South Africa, Africa's most developed country, is already showing signs of being overwhelmed by the pandemic — an ominous outlook for the rest of the continent of 1.3 billion people.

A ban on alcohol sales and a night curfew have been reimposed this week to reduce the volume of hospitalizations to hospice care as people are struggling to cope with an influx of COVID-19 patients.

Alcohol-related emergencies at hospitals dropped by nearly 60% when South Africa prohibited the sales of liquor in April and May. When that restriction was lifted in June, hospitals saw an immediate return to previous levels of trauma cases, especially on weekends, according to statistics from Health Minister Zwelinzi Mkhize.

One result was more economic pain in a country which already has a high unemployment rate of 30%.

"This return to the booze ban is causing havoc to the restaurant business, and it's causing people to lose jobs," said Gerald Elliott, owner of a popular Johannesburg restaurant, Ba Pita, which he said closed as a result of the restrictions, with a loss of 28 jobs. "You can look down our street and see several restaurants that are shut. It looks like they are closed permanently."

Concerns exist even in locations that have not experienced outbreaks. A World Health Organization delegation visiting Turkmenistan, a country that has not reported any coronavirus infections, recommended that the country take stronger action.

In Spain, authorities in the northeastern Catalonia region made fresh attempts to stem the spread of new coronavirus outbreaks as health experts warned that more and better contact tracing is needed.

In the town of Llobregat, a densely populated town on the outskirts of the regional capital, Barcelona, dozens of people lined up Tuesday at a local health center to be tested for the virus, as infections have shot up from a few dozen to more than 200 in just over three days.



ERANGA JAYAWARDENA/AP

Sri Lankan auto rickshaw driver Prasad Dinesh, linked by Sri Lankan officials to nearly half the country's more than 2,600 coronavirus cases, pushes his daughter in a swing at their home in Ja-Ela, Sri Lanka, on Wednesday, July 1.

Man blamed for nearly half of Sri Lanka's cases speaks out

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI
AND EMILY SCHMALL
Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — For months he's been anonymous, but now Prasad Dinesh, linked by Sri Lankan authorities to nearly half of the country's more than 2,600 coronavirus cases, is trying to clear his name and shed some of the stigma of a herculean addiction at the root of his ordeal.

Under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a former army lieutenant colonel credited with helping end Sri Lanka's long civil war in 2009 with a brutal military campaign against separatists, the Indian Ocean island nation has used the armed forces to combat the virus.

When Rajapaksa was elected president last year, a health unit was created in the intelligence service that sprang into action when COVID-19 first appeared, according to State Intelligence Service Assistant Director Parama de Silva. Intelligence officers, health workers, police officers and military troops have worked together to identify infected people, trace their contacts and send them to military-run quarantine centers.

After Dinesh, 33, tested positive for the virus in April, navy sailors raided his village, forcing his contacts into quarantine. But authorities have blamed a melee that ensued not on the military, but on Dinesh — and said the rumpus ended up leading to at least 1,100 additional virus infections.

These cases, they publicly declared, were all linked to a single patient.

Referring to him only as "Patient 206," government officials lambasted Dinesh on TV and social media, blaming him for at least three clusters of cases, including about 800 navy sailors who were infected after an opera-

tion in Ja-Ela, a small town about 12 miles north of the capital, Colombo.

Dinesh, however, says his drug addiction, which is considered a crime in Sri Lanka, makes him a convenient scapegoat.

"I can't accept that I am responsible for infecting so many, including the navy sailors," Dinesh told The Associated Press, after he had returned home following his release from a monthlong stay at a hospital.

Before the pandemic reached Sri Lanka, resulting in an island-wide lockdown, Dinesh worked as an auto rickshaw driver. But now he's unable to find work.

"No one gives a job when they realize that I am Patient 206," he said.

Likening him to South Korea's "Patient 31," whom media in that country labeled a "super spreader" because she was the first person to test positive in a secretive church community where the virus was later found endemic, police spokesman Ajith Rohana said Dinesh had undermined Sri Lanka's fight against COVID-19.

"He is the turning point and has done huge damage to our country," Rohana said.

Authorities said that on April 5, Dinesh was caught by village residents for a robbery and handed over to police. At the station, Dinesh had a fever as well as leg injury sustained during the robbery, so authorities admitted him to a nearby hospital, where he tested positive for the coronavirus and stayed for 31 days.

Dinesh hasn't contested charges that he and others broke into a house in a nearby village to take coconuts they could sell in order to buy heroin.

After he tested positive, the police who made the arrest, Dinesh's friends and more than 100 people in his neighborhood were ordered to quarantine at home.

But not everyone complied.

Afraid that the virus would spread quickly in the congested area, Sri Lanka's navy sent in a team of sailors to help health workers. As the sailors approached, some of Dinesh's associates panicked.

"They were climbing trees, they were trying to jump over a fence, trying to have a bath, trying to jump into a canal," Adm. Jayanath Colombage, a former navy commander and member of the national task force to combat the virus, said in a TV interview.

Of the 28 people seized from the community and quarantined, 16 tested positive. Two weeks later, some sailors involved in the operation did, too.

Sri Lanka has confirmed at least 2,665 cases in all, including 11 deaths, meaning nearly half of its caseload has been blamed on one man — Dinesh.

"What to do? It is our fault for using drugs?" he said, referring to his heroin habit.

Dinesh said that he had been using heroin since 2002, but that he never became "a severe addict." During the coronavirus lockdown, however, he used the drug more regularly, and joined three other users in the robbery to raise money to buy more heroin.

Officials say some 300,000 people — around 1.5% of all Sri Lankans — are addicted to drugs.

Dinesh, however, said he was no longer part of that population.

One positive of being infected with the coronavirus, he said, was that his hospitalization helped him to kick his heroin habit.

He said he had body pains for about two days. "I did not suffer severe withdrawals because I was not a severe addict," he said.

"I have now completely given up (drugs)," he said. "I don't even smoke a cigarette. I am always with my two kids now and play with them. I feel good."

MILITARY/NATION

Esper to ban photos for promotion boards

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Mark Esper called for the elimination of photos in promotion boards and the review of grooming standards for racial bias as part of immediate actions to address diversity in the military, according to a memo released Wednesday.

"Diversity and inclusivity in the ranks are not merely aspirations, they are fundamental necessities to our readiness and our mission success," Esper wrote in the memo dated Tuesday.

Addressed to the military sec-

retaries and other Defense Department officials, the memo directs immediate action on nine items based on recommendations from across the department.

The first action directs Matthew Donovan, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, to create policy by Sept. 1 banning photos from being considered by promotion boards and selection processes "to ensure equal opportunity for all." The Army announced in June its own steps to remove photos from packets set to promotion boards.

Donovan is also charged with reviewing policies and develop-

ing guidance to remove "all references to race, ethnicity, and gender in personnel packets reviewed by panel members" by Sept. 30 in order to make the process free from bias based on race or gender.

Another action calls for updating the military's harassment policy "to strengthen protections for servicemembers against inappropriate and intolerable harassing behaviors, especially racial bias and prejudice." The policies have to be updated by Sept. 1.

Grooming and hairstyle policies will also be reviewed for racial bias by the military ser-

vices. Changes must be made by Sept. 15, according to the memo. Allowing more hairstyle options for Black military women, such as braids and locks, has been an issue in the services for at least a few years after calls for more inclusion in the grooming standards by service members.

Two actions direct the development of more training requirements and education programs for service members and leaders — from recruits to senior leaders — on addressing biases and prejudices. Training plans need to be submitted by Oct. 1.

Esper also directed the service-

es' inspectors general to review the effectiveness of the military equal opportunity offices by Sept. 1, looking at how they respond to equal opportunity issues.

"The actions I am directing are a necessary first step, but hard work remains, and we will continue to learn as we move forward," Esper wrote. "Shifting culture requires steadfast attention; these actions will maximize our efforts to ensure a diverse workforce at all levels, an inclusive environment, and equal opportunity for all who serve."

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com
@caitlinkkenney

Vaccine: No serious side effects seen in first group

FROM FRONT PAGE

Sure enough, the vaccine proved a hoped-for immune boost.

Those early volunteers developed what are called neutralizing antibodies in their bloodstream — molecules key to blocking infection — at levels comparable to those found in people who survived COVID-19, the research team reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"This is an essential building block that is needed to move forward with the trials that could actually determine whether the vaccine does protect against infection," said Dr. Lisa Jackson of the Kaiser Permanente Washington Research Institute in Seattle, who led the study.

There's no guarantee but the government hopes to have results around the end of the year — record-setting speed for developing a vaccine.

The vaccine requires two doses, a month apart.

There were no serious side effects. But more than half the study participants reported flu-like reactions to the shots that aren't uncommon with other vaccines — fatigue, headache, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. For three participants given the highest dose, those reactions were more severe; that dose isn't being pursued.

Some of those reactions are similar to coronavirus symptoms but they're temporary, lasting about a day, and occur right after vaccination, researchers noted.

"Small price to pay for protection against COVID," said Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, a vaccine expert who wasn't involved with the study.

He called the early results "a good first step," and is optimistic that final testing could deliver



SIPRIWE SIBIKWA/AP

A medical staff member prepares a syringe, at the Chris Hansi Baragwanath hospital in Soweto, Johannesburg, last month. Politicians and public health leaders have publicly committed to equitably sharing any coronavirus vaccine that works.

answers about whether it's really safe and effective by the beginning of next year. "It would be wonderful. But that assumes everything's working right on schedule," Schaffner cautioned.

Moderna's share price jumped nearly 15% in trading after U.S. markets closed. Shares of the company, based in Cambridge, Mass., have nearly quadrupled this year.

Tuesday's results only included younger adults. The first-step testing later was expanded to include dozens of older adults, the age group most at risk from COVID-19. Those results aren't public yet but regulators are evaluating them. Fauci said final testing will include older adults, as well as people with chronic health condi-

tions that make them more vulnerable to the virus — and Black and Latino populations likewise affected.

Nearly two dozen possible COVID-19 vaccines are in various stages of testing around the world. Candidates from China and Britain's Oxford University also are entering final testing stages.

The 30,000-person study will mark the world's largest study of a potential COVID-19 vaccine so far. And the NIH-developed shot isn't the only one set for such massive U.S. testing, crucial to spot rare side effects. The government plans similar large studies of the Oxford candidate and another by Johnson & Johnson; separately, Pfizer Inc. is planning its own huge study.

31 states, territories seek Guard deployed for virus into the fall

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Governors for 31 states and territories are seeking federal funds to keep National Guard troops deployed on coronavirus missions into the fall — possibly to Christmas, Pentagon officials said Wednesday.

The Defense Department has not made a determination whether the Title 32 orders, which grants troops federal pay and benefits but keeps them under state control, will extend beyond Aug. 21, when the military's federal coronavirus relief mission is set to end.

Master Sgt. Michael Houk, a Pentagon spokesman, said defense officials are continually assessing the governors' needs during the pandemic.

"As in all national-level emergencies, the Secretary of Defense makes the final decisions regarding the length of time National Guard members are activated under federally funded orders, while the soldiers and airmen remain under the operational control of the governors," he said in a statement.

As of mid-July, there are about 29,700 Guard troops deployed across the country for coronavirus relief, which started in early March in most states, according to the Defense Department. In early June, the Guard's deployments for coronavirus missions and racial justice protests increased the number of troops on the ground to a peak of 75,000 soldiers and airmen. It marked the largest domestic use of the Guard in noncombat operations.

In addition to coronavirus and protests missions, there are an additional 2,400 Guard troops along the U.S.-Mexico border and more than 28,000 deployed overseas, according to the National Guard Bureau.

Governors can keep Guard troops deployed after the federal government pulls back financial support, but the states must pay for it. For troops, this could mean a reduction in pay and terminates soldier's or airman's eligibility for benefits such as health care and access to the GI Bill. Troops also cannot seek disability through the Department of Veterans Affairs if injured on state orders.

States and territories seeking extended federal funding for Guard troops include: Alabama, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Iowa, Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Michigan, Missouri, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, Washington state, Wisconsin and West Virginia, according to Houk.

It was unclear Wednesday what the specifics are for each governor's request for federal funding extensions. But on Friday, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer sent a letter to President Donald Trump requesting he authorize the use of Guard troops through Dec. 31.

"The uncertain nature of this global pandemic makes the National Guard a critically important asset as we keep up the fight against (the coronavirus) together in the coming months," Maj. Gen. Paul Rogers, adjutant general, and director of the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, said in a statement.

beynon.steven@stripes.com
@StevenBeynon

NATION

Trump revokes Hong Kong trade benefits with new sanctions

By RACHEL OSWALD
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced Tuesday he had signed legislation that establishes a regime for gradually sanctioning foreign banks if they continue to indirectly support Chinese officials' crackdown on Hong Kong.

In a Rose Garden news conference, the president also announced he had signed an executive order that would revoke the special trade privileges the United States has maintained since 1992 toward the former British colony, which helped Hong Kong rise to become one of the biggest financial hubs in the world.

"Today, I also signed an executive order ending U.S. preferential treatment for Hong Kong," Trump said. "Hong Kong will now be treated the same as mainland China. No special privileges, no special economic treatment and no export of sensitive technologies."

Hong Kong is the United States' 15th-largest export market. Last year, the U.S. had a \$26.1 billion trade goods surplus with Hong Kong.

The legislation signed by Trump requires the sanctioning of Chinese officials deemed to have violated human rights in Hong Kong. The measure further orders gradually stronger and stronger sanctions on foreign banks that opt to continue to do

significant business with Chinese officials who have been sanctioned because of their repressive actions toward Hong Kong.

The bill, which was initially developed by Sens. Patrick J. Toomey, R-Pa., and Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., unanimously cleared both chambers of Congress at the beginning of the month as U.S. lawmakers were infuriated by the swiftness with which the Chinese Communist Party — ignoring criticism and condemnation from a number of democratic countries — moved to draft and impose its sweeping anti-sedition law on Hong Kong.

The anti-sedition law effectively strips Hong Kong residents of many of the free speech rights and civil liberties they have known and that Beijing promised in a treaty, the Sino-British Joint Declaration, to respect when the United Kingdom relinquished control over the city back to China in 1997.

The Toomey-Van Hollen measure gives the president the ability to waive sanctions should it be in the national security interests of the U.S. to do so. But the law also lays out an expedited process for lawmakers to vote to overturn the use of that waiver if they can muster veto-proof majorities. In his signing statement of the law, Trump said he would treat these potential congressional limitations on his authority as "advisory and nonbinding."

Biden's new Texas ad signals opportunity in Republican stronghold

By STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

Joe Biden targeted Texas with a modest advertising investment that raised new questions about President Donald Trump's vulnerability in the longtime Republican stronghold as coronavirus infections continue to explode in the state.

Biden, the former vice president and the Democrats' presumptive presidential nominee in 2020, ignores Trump completely in the new ad. He instead offers an uplifting message that allows voters to envision him as consoler in chief, a role that Republicans have repeatedly encouraged Trump to embrace, but to no avail.

"This virus is tough, but Texas is tougher," Biden says in the ad. "I want every single American

to know, if you're sick, if you're struggling, if you're worried about how you're going to get through the day, I will not abandon you. We're all in this together."

Trump's campaign on Tuesday laughed off the small new investment, and even some Democrats were skeptical of Biden's chances in Texas. Yet Biden's modest step into a state that hasn't backed a Democrat for president in 44 years reflected the extent to which the pandemic threatens to scramble the electoral map this fall.

Even before the outbreak, Democrats considered Republican-led states like Florida and Arizona top targets. Texas, which Democrats have long hoped would swing their way because of demographic trends, emerged as a possible pickup only after the pandemic intensified.



DAVID J. PHILLIPS/AP

Peter McDonald, left, casts his ballot Tuesday in Houston.

Democrat MJ Hegar wins Senate nomination in Texas

By PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas' MJ Hegar won the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in a primary runoff Tuesday that was postponed months over fears of the coronavirus, only to be held as the outbreak is worse than ever.

President Donald Trump's former doctor in the White House, Ronny Jackson, also won the GOP nomination for a rural congressional seat on a day in which Texas set a record for new coronavirus cases and reported 87 new deaths. Some counties cut back on polling places as virus fears created a shortage of election workers, although reports of long lines were sparse even as

turnout was higher than a typical primary runoff.

Hegar's victory is a win for national Democratic groups that backed her campaign — as did former presidential candidates Pete Buttigieg and Sen. Elizabeth Warren — believing the former Air Force helicopter pilot has a centrist appeal that gives the party the best shot at an upset in America's biggest red state.

But it was far from a resounding victory over state Sen. Royce West, who would have been Texas' first Black Senator if elected in November. The close margin reflected divisions among Democratic voters two years after former congressman Beto O'Rourke revived the party's long-dormant

hopes in Texas by nearly ousting Republican Sen. Ted Cruz. By late Tuesday, Hegar had more than 52% of the vote.

She will be an underdog against Republican Sen. John Cornyn, and Democrats nationally do not view the race as competitive as their chances of flipping Senate seats in Arizona, Colorado and Maine. Hegar said, however, that it's a race she can win.

"The grassroots energy that has jelled behind this campaign, and my ability to connect with people because I am a regular working Texas mom has really pushed us to this point."

Democrats hope that Trump's sagging poll numbers will be a burden for the GOP ticket.

In defeat, Sessions says Trump right for US

By BILL BARROW
AND KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

MOBILE, Ala. — Jeff Sessions took the stage Tuesday night near the Alabama gulf coast with the same certitude he'd displayed on another, bigger stage across town almost five years ago. Donald Trump's vision, the former attorney general declared anew, is right for America.

Yet this occasion couldn't have been more different.

Neither Trump nor the boisterous throngs they'd greeted together at an August 2015 stadium rally were anywhere to be seen as Sessions calmly conceded defeat in Alabama's Republican Senate runoff. The outcome ended Sessions' hopes of returning to the Senate seat he abandoned to join

Trump's administration and instead left him to defend his honor one last time against the unlikely president he'd helped elect but then angered.

From the White House, Trump tweeted his joy over the stinging defeat of the former Justice Department chief he's chastised since Sessions rescused himself in the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential campaign.

"I leave elected office with my integrity intact," Sessions said, initially standing alone before his grandsons joined him in front of reporters. "I hold my head high."

For Trump, the outcome mixes vengeance and vindication. A turnout, as he sees it, lost. And the president's preferred candidate, former Auburn University football coach Tommy Tuberville,

won handily, immediately becoming a strong challenger to vulnerable Democratic Sen. Doug Jones in November.

Sessions, for his part, seemed eager to move on from a primary fight that saw Tuberville call him "weak" and a "disaster." He pledged to help Tuberville defeat Jones in November, offering seemingly typical statements about party unity. But Sessions took special care when discussing the matter that dominated and ultimately doomed his comeback attempt.

"Let me say this about the president and our relationship. I leave with no regrets," the 73-year-old Sessions said. "I was honored to serve the people of Alabama in the Senate, and I was extraordinarily proud of the accomplishments we had as attorney general."

NATION



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump looks on as Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, a survivor of the Poway, Calif., synagogue shooting, speaks during a 2019 National Day of Prayer event in the Rose Garden of the White House.

Rabbi hurt in Calif. synagogue shooting pleads guilty to fraud

By ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The longtime leader of a Southern California synagogue who was wounded in a deadly attack at the house of worship he founded pleaded guilty Tuesday to participating in a multimillion-dollar fraud that disguised charitable contributions for personal gain.

Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison for fraud, but prosecutors will recommend probation as part of a plea agreement. They noted his cooperation with investigators after federal agents raided his home and office in October 2018 and his widely-praised

response to the attack on the Chabad of Poway synagogue in April 2019.

Robert Brewer, the U.S. attorney in San Diego, said it was “a very difficult day for all of us.”

“His role after the 2019 terrorist attack was exemplary,” Brewer said at a news conference. “He became a significant advocate for peace and elimination of violence based on religious hatred. He spoke all over the world and sent a strong message of peace.”

Goldstein, 58, lost his right index finger in the attack on the last day of Passover, which killed one congregant, Lori Gilbert-Kaye, and injured the rabbi and two others. The rabbi received an outpouring of support that in-

cluded meeting President Donald Trump at the White House.

Goldstein, who founded Chabad of Poway near San Diego in 1986, collected \$6.2 million in fake donations to the synagogue and affiliates and returned 90% to contributors with phony receipts, allowing them to deduct the full amount from their taxes, prosecutors said. Goldstein kept the remaining 10%, or \$620,000, for himself.

Goldstein acknowledged concealing a fake donation of more than \$1.1 million in late 2017 by purchasing about \$1 million in gold coins and giving them to the phony donor.

“We call this the 90-10 tax fraud scheme,” Brewer said.

Judge rejects Weinstein deal with accusers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A \$19 million settlement between Harvey Weinstein and some of his accusers and the state of New York was rejected Tuesday by a judge.

U.S. District Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein in Manhattan said Weinstein’s accusers in the proposed class-action settlement were too varied to be grouped together.

Three lawyers for several women who had opposed the deal

praised what they described as Hellerstein’s swift rejection of a one-sided proposal.

“We have been saying for over a year and a half that the settlement terms and conditions were unfair and should never be imposed on sexual assault survivors,” the lawyers wrote in a statement released by one of the attorneys, Douglas Wigdor. “On behalf of our clients, we look forward to pursuing justice against Harvey Weinstein and his many enablers.”

A spokesperson for Weinstein did not comment. A lawyer for his companies declined comment.

A spokesperson for New York Attorney General Letitia James, who announced the tentative agreement on June 30, said her office was reviewing the decision and determining its next steps.

“Our office has been fighting tirelessly to provide these brave women with the justice they are owed and will continue to do so,” Morgan Rubin said in a written statement.

Groups seek public release of Floyd bodycam footage

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Video from the body cameras of two officers charged in George Floyd’s death is being made available for public viewing by appointment on Wednesday, but a judge thus far has declined to allow news organizations to publish the footage for wider distribution.

Footage from the body cameras of Thomas Lane and J. Kueng was filed with the court last week by Lane’s attorney, but only the written transcripts were made public. A coalition of news organizations and attorneys for Lane and Kueng have said that making the videos public would provide a more complete picture of what happened when Floyd was taken into custody.

The viewing was taking place on the same day Floyd family attorney Ben Crump was announcing a lawsuit against the city and the police officers involved in his death.

Members of the media and the public are viewing the video Wednesday by appointment at the courthouse. The media coalition, which includes The Associated Press, has said this arrangement

is the equivalent of keeping the videos under seal, and the coalition is asking Judge Peter Cahill to allow the media to copy the videos and publish them.

Media attorney Leita Walker said in a court filing that the footage should be made widely available to “all members of the public concerned about the administration of justice in one of the most important, and most-watched, cases this State — perhaps this country — has ever seen.”

She also said allowing journalists to copy the footage, watch it multiple times, transcribe it and compare it to the transcripts and time stamps from bystander video will help reporters piece together a more complete story.

Floyd, a Black man who was handcuffed, died May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, pressed his knee against Floyd’s neck for nearly nine minutes as Floyd said he couldn’t breathe. Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter. Tou Thao, Lane and Kueng are charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter. All four officers were fired.

Judge denies bail for Epstein’s ex-girlfriend

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jeffrey Epstein’s former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, will remain behind bars until trial after she was denied bail Tuesday as a risk to flee rather than face charges she recruited girls for the financier to sexually abuse more than two decades ago.

Two Epstein accusers implored the judge to keep the British socialite detained after she pleaded not guilty to the charges during a video court hearing in Manhattan.

U.S. District Judge Alison J. Nathan said even the most restrictive form of release would be insufficient to ensure Maxwell

would not flee, particularly now that she has seen the strength of the evidence and realizes that she could face up to 35 years in prison if she is convicted.

Maxwell was charged with recruiting at least three girls, one as young as 14, for Epstein to abuse between 1994 and 1997.

In court papers, Maxwell’s lawyers argued that Epstein’s death left the media “wrongly dying to substitute her for Epstein — even though she’d had no contact with Epstein for more than a decade, had never been charged with a crime or been found liable in any civil litigation, and has always denied any allegations of claimed misconduct.”



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WORLD

NY Times to move some staff from Hong Kong

By ZEN SGO
Associated Press

HONG KONG — The New York Times said Tuesday it will transfer some of its staff out of Hong Kong because of uncertainties about practicing journalism in the Chinese territory under its newly imposed national security law.

The Times reported that it will move its digital team of journalists, about a third of

its Hong Kong staff, to Seoul, South Korea, over the next year. Correspondents will remain to cover the city, it said.

Other departments, including print production, advertising and marketing staff, are expected to remain.

Hong Kong, which was handed over to China by the British in 1997, has long been seen as China's last bastion of press freedom and is a base for many foreign news outlets reporting on Asia and mainland China.

But uncertainty about press freedom has followed Beijing's imposition of a security law June 30 aimed at curbing dissent in the city after months of anti-government protests last year.

The law states that the Hong Kong government will "strengthen public communication, guidance, supervision and regulation over matters concerning national security" for a variety of institutions including the

media and internet.

"China's sweeping new national security law in Hong Kong has created a lot of uncertainty about what the new rules will mean to our operation and our journalism," the New York Times quoted management as saying in a memo to staff on Tuesday.

"We feel it is prudent to make contingency plans and begin to diversify our editing staff around the region."

Protester statue replaces UK slave trader

Associated Press

LONDON — An artist has erected a statue of a Black Lives Matter protester atop the plinth in the English city of Bristol formerly occupied by a statue of a slave trader.

Marc Quinn created the life-size resin and steel likeness of Jen Reid, a protester photographed standing on the plinth after demonstrators pulled down the statue of Edward Colston and dumped it in Bristol's harbor June 7.

The statue, titled "A Surge of Power (Jen Reid)" was erected before dawn Wednesday without approval from city officials.

Reid, who came to inspect her likeness, said "it's something that fills me with pride."

"I think it's amazing," she said. "It looks like it belongs there. It feels like it's been there forever."

Colston was a 17th-century trader who made a fortune transporting enslaved Africans across the Atlantic to the Americas on Bristol-based ships. His money funded schools and charities in Bristol, 120 miles southwest of London.

The toppling of his statue was part of a worldwide reckoning with racism and slavery sparked by the death of a Black American

man, George Floyd, at the hands of police in Minneapolis in May.

City authorities fished the Colston statue out of the harbor and say it will be placed in a museum, along with placards from the Black Lives Matter demonstration.

Bristol Mayor Marvin Rees cast doubt on whether the new statue would be allowed to stay, noting that it "was the work and decision of a London-based artist."

"The future of the plinth and what is installed on it must be decided by the people of Bristol," he said in a statement.



MATT DUNHAM/AP

A statue of a protester replaces the toppled statue of slave trader Edward Colston.

UAE Mars mission again delayed by weather

TOKYO — The launch of a United Arab Emirates Mars orbiter, already delayed two days, has been postponed further due to bad weather at the Japanese launch site.

The orbiter named Amal, or Hope, is the Arab world's first interplanetary mission. The launch, initially scheduled for Wednesday from the Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan, had already been postponed until Friday. It was delayed further Wednesday to an unspecified date, said Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the provider of the H-IIA rocket.

From The Associated Press

Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Career criminal gets 5 years for bank robbery

RI PROVIDENCE — A Rhode Island man described by authorities as a career criminal was sentenced to five years in federal prison for his second bank robbery conviction, prosecutors said.

David L. Evans, 51, stole \$568 from a Providence bank in May 2018, according to the U.S. attorney's office in Rhode Island.

He pleaded guilty to the latest charge on Feb. 6.

Evans was convicted of robbing a bank in a Warwick supermarket in March 2010, prosecutors said. His record includes arrests and convictions for firearms, drugs, assault, domestic assault, breaking and entering, wire fraud, transportation of stolen goods, and second-degree robbery charges, the U.S. attorney's office said.

Police: Shop owner throws pizza at robber

DE GREENWOOD — The owner of a pizza shop used his available resources to fend off a robbery attempt by a man with a machete outside his store in Delaware, police said.

He threw a pizza at him.

It happened as the owner of Stargate Pizza in Greenwood was closing his shop for the night, Delaware State Police said in a news release. The owner told troopers that a man with a machete approached him demanding money. He said he told him he didn't have any, and threw a pizza at him, causing the machete-wielding man to flee in a car.

Postal service employee indicted on mail theft

NE OMAHA — A former U.S. Postal Service employee in Omaha was indicted for mail theft, and federal prosecutors said that they have identified about 216 victims.

Austin M. Thomas, 29, is accused of committing theft by mail between September of last year and this past January, the Omaha World-Herald reported.

The government alleges the thefts involve "a large number of card-sized envelopes and greeting cards that contained gift cards and cash."

Due to the large number of victims requiring notification, U.S. Magistrate Judge Susan Bazis granted the government's motion to use alternative procedures to alert victims.

Trio of sisters give birth on the same day

OH MANSFIELD — Three Ohio sisters have defied odds by giving birth on the same day in the same hospital with the same obstetrician overseeing their deliveries.

Daneesha Haynes, Ariel Williams and Ashley Haynes gave birth July 3 at OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital within a four-and-a-half-hour span, the Mansfield News Journal reported.

All three sisters had their deliv-



DAVE SCHERBENCO, THE (WILKES-BARRE, PA.) CITIZENS' VOICE/AP

Lowering the bar

Brian Haviland and friends participate in the car limbo contest in his 1984 Dodge Rampage on Sunday in Pittston, Pa., during a car show and blood drive at the Miller Keystone Blood Center.

Postal service employee indicted on mail theft

eries induced. Daneesha was not due until July 23. Dr. Edroy McMillan delivered all three babies. He declined to be interviewed.

Williams was the first to give birth that day, naming her 8 pound, 2 ounce daughter Sincere. Ashley Haynes followed with her 6 pound, 10 ounce son Adrian. Daneesha Haynes completed the trifecta with daughter Emrie, who weighed in at 4 pounds, 14 ounces.

Man arrested for threatening passengers

WA SEATTLE — Seattle police arrested a man accused of threatening other passengers on a flight to Chicago.

Video from a passenger shows the man walking in the aisle and shouting that he would kill everyone on board "in the name of Jesus."

The incident occurred shortly after Alaska Airlines Flight 422 took off, Port of Seattle Police spokesman Peter McGraw told The Seattle Times. The plane was forced to return to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The man was apparently unarmed and no one was injured.

Flight crew, two passengers and a law-enforcement officer who happened to be on board quickly subdued the man, according to Ray Lane, external communications manager for Alaska Airlines.

THE CENSUS

450

The number of fake iPhone cases federal officers seized at a facility at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The counterfeit cases were in a package that originated from Hong Kong and were headed to an Amazon facility in Joliet, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Authorities said that number of actual iPhone cases at the manufacturer's suggested retail price would be valued at \$17,550. Nearly 200 counterfeit watches were found in late June and early July at a mail facility at the airport.

1st sea turtle nest of the season hatches

SC KIAWAH ISLAND — South Carolina's first known sea turtle nest of the summer has hatched.

The Department of Natural Resources said volunteers on Kiawah Island on Saturday discovered dozens of tiny sea turtle tracks leading from the beach to the ocean.

Beginning in May each year, four sea turtle species come ashore to lay eggs on South Carolina beaches.

About halfway through this year's nesting season, officials said they've counted about 4,200 sea turtle nests on South Carolina's beaches.

Feds: Moonshiner owes \$1.2M in taxes

MS GULFPORT — A Mississippi man who pleaded guilty in a moonshining

case owes \$1.2 million in federal and state taxes, a federal prosecutor said in a news release.

Willie Necessaire Jr., 77, of Hancock County bought enough sugar out of state to make 74,000 gallons of whiskey, according to Mike Hurst, U.S. attorney for Mississippi's Southern district.

Since he never paid excise tax on the whiskey, he owes about \$898,700 to the U.S. government and more than \$369,700 to Mississippi, according to the news release.

Necessaire pleaded guilty in Gulfport to illegally making distilled spirits and to traveling interstate for racketeering. Each carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Truckers honor driver who has brain cancer

IN SOUTH WHITLEY — Semi-trucks, motorcycles and classic cars rolled through a rural area in northern

Indiana to honor a fellow trucker who is dying from brain cancer.

The drivers wanted to show their respect for Jon Kuckuck, who sat in a wheelchair and watched a parade of dozens of vehicles pass his home in South Whitley, WANE-TV reported.

The drivers also raised money for Kuckuck's wife, Tami.

College hockey players raise funds for charity

MA BOSTON — Two varsity hockey players at the University of Massachusetts Boston donned inline skates and plan to roll roughly 875 miles to Mason, Mich., to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Roommates Andrew Walker and Jacob Adkins took off from campus Monday. They planned to skate 100 to 150 miles per day and finish in seven to 10 days.

Adkins, of Windham, N.H., is a biology major whose mother, Ali, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma in 2014. She was in and out of the hospital for a year until being declared in remission in 2015.

Walker, of Mason, Mich., a biochemistry major whose grandfather passed away from cancer, said the American Cancer Society was an easy choice of a charity to support.

From wire reports

FACES



AP

Tyra Banks will replace longtime host Tom Bergeron and take on the role of executive producer for "Dancing with the Stars."

Banks steps in as 'DWTS' host

BY LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

Tyra Banks will show off her moves as solo host of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

The supermodel, actor and businesswoman who co-created "America's Next Top Model" will replace Tom Bergeron and also serve as the show's executive producer, ABC said Wednesday.

In a statement, Banks said she's a fan of the contest's approach of "fun mixed with raw emotion, seeing celebrities push past their comfort zones, the sizzling dance performances... it's always transported me to my days of touring up 10 notches on the catwalk."

Banks lauded Bergeron, host of the show since its 2005 debut, as having set "a powerful stage" and said she's excited to continue the legacy.

Co-host Erin Andrews also is leaving the series, which is getting a "creative refresh" while honoring America's affection for it, ABC said. Andrews was not expected to be replaced.

When the show will get to unveil its new approach in season No. 29 remains clouded by the pandemic-caused production halt affecting the return of most TV series.

The announcement that Banks is joining the show followed word Monday of Bergeron and Andrews' exits. In a Twitter post, Bergeron called working on "Dancing with the Stars" an "incredible 15-year run and the most unexpected gift of my career."

Last year, Bergeron drew attention when he expressed concern over the show's decision to include former White House press secretary Sean Spicer among the contestants for last fall's season.



AP

Actor and producer Michael B. Jordan has partnered with Amazon Studios for "A Night at the Drive-In" that will bring diverse films to drive-in theaters for free screenings.

Michael B. Jordan wants you to see a drive-in movie, on him

BY GARY GERARD HAMILTON
Associated Press

For Michael B. Jordan, timing is everything. So when the SAG award winner marched in a Los Angeles Black Lives Matter protest last month demanding that Hollywood drastically increase its diversity in the executive ranks, it was a moment he felt prepared for.

"I think it's always been brewing in me, but I think timing is everything, you know? I mean, who knew that we was going to be in this pandemic? And on the heels of that, another senseless murder by law enforcement," said the 33-year-old "Just Mercy" star. "I've always chosen to be very strategic in wanting to speak when it really makes an impact and really matters. And I want to work and evolve and grow with people who feel that same sense of urgency."

Jordan, whose breakout "Fruitvale Station" role followed the events of a young Black man killed by an Oakland transit police officer, channeled the urgency for change — and healing — into "A Night at the Drive-In." The goal is to celebrate "multi-cultural and diverse voices in cinema, in hopes of ultimately bringing together communities." Jordan and his Outlier Society production company — who hand-picked the movies — is partnering with Amazon Studios.

Films show every other Wednesday through Aug. 26 and include blockbusters such as "Crazy Rich Asians" and Jordan's own "Black

Panther," along with classics like "Do the Right Thing" and "Coming to America." The screenings will show in 20 cities, including New York, Los Angeles and Houston, as well as smaller towns such as Savannah, Ga.; Augusta-Aiken, S.C.; and Knoxville, Tenn.

Attendance is free, with most moviegoers chosen by local community organizations and nonprofits. The initiative is also raising voter registration awareness.

"We wanted to find a way for us to (show) stories that fed our soul, that inspired us, that made us laugh," Jordan said. "We wanted to give people an opportunity to find relatability through cinema, and we were able to put together a pretty eclectic list of some old favorites and some newer films that kind of checked off all these boxes."

Outlier Society and Amazon Studios also partnered with Path Water, Pipcorn Popcorn and Partake Cookies — all owned by people of color — to provide free refreshments during the double-feature programs.

Jennifer Salke, head of Amazon Studios, said the partnership falls into the company's efforts to support social justice initiatives.

"Going through the conversations around supporting Black Lives Matter and changing the carousels on (Amazon Prime Video), all of that was never done as a, 'OK, We better do these things out of a reactive we want to keep up with the guys or gals down the street,'" Salke said. "It really was a point of pride for the company to be able to say, 'We care deeply about this.'"



AP

ViacomCBS to cut ties with Nick Cannon over comments he made on an episode of his podcast.

Cannon is dropped by ViacomCBS

Associated Press

Nick Cannon's "hateful speech" and anti-Semitic theories led ViacomCBS to cut ties with the TV host and producer, the media giant said.

"ViacomCBS condemns bigotry of any kind and we categorically denounce all forms of anti-Semitism," the company said in a statement Tuesday. It is ending its relationship with Cannon, ViacomCBS said.

The company's move was in response to remarks made by Cannon on a podcast in which he and Richard "Professor Griff" Griffith, the former Public Enemy member, discussed racial bias. The podcast reportedly was filmed last year and aired two weeks ago.

"We have spoken with Nick Cannon about an episode of his podcast 'Cannon's Class' on YouTube, which promoted hateful speech and spread anti-Semitic conspiracy theories," ViacomCBS said.

"While we support ongoing education and dialogue in the fight against bigotry, we are deeply troubled that Nick has failed to acknowledge or apologize for perpetuating anti-Semitism, and we are terminating our relationship with him," the company said.

Cannon produced "Wild 'n Out," a comedy improv series for VH1, a ViacomCBS-owned cable channel. He's been a regular part of TV shows unconnected to the company, including as the former host of NBC's "America's Got Talent" and host of Fox's "The Masked Singer."

There was no immediate response to requests for comment made to a representative for Cannon and to him through his website. Fox also didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

As controversy over his remarks began to bubble up Monday, Cannon replied in a Facebook post.

"I do not condone hate speech nor the spread of hateful rhetoric ... The Black and Jewish communities have both faced enormous hatred, oppression, persecution and prejudice for thousands of years and in many ways have and will continue to work together to overcome these obstacles," he wrote.

In Cannon's hour-plus podcast, he and Griffith contend that Black people are the true Hebrews and that Jews have usurped their identity.

Autopsy confirms actress died from accidental drowning

Associated Press

An autopsy confirmed Tuesday that "Glee" star Naya Rivera died from accidental drowning, officials said, while her family released a statement honoring her "everlasting legacy and magnetic spirit."

The examination, performed the day after the 33-year-old's body was found in a Southern California lake, showed no signs of traumatic injury

or disease that might have contributed to the drowning, and gave no initial indication that drugs or alcohol might have played a role in her death, the Ventura County Medical Examiner said in a statement.

Rivera was found in Lake Piru on Monday, five days after she disappeared while boating with her 4-year-old son, who was found asleep and alone on the boat hours later. The autopsy's findings were consistent with the expectations of the Sheriff's Office, which conducted the search and investigation.

Rivera's family released a statement Tuesday, saying they are "so grateful for the outpouring of love and prayers for Naya, Josey and our family over the past week. While we grieve the loss of our beautiful legend, we are blessed to honor her everlasting legacy and magnetic spirit."

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Rivera

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations
Joshua M. Lashbrook, Pacific Chief of Staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stars.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stars.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stars.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stars.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stars.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Bideast
Erik Slavin, Europe & Bideast Chief of Staff
slavin.erik@stars.com
(+1)202.886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stars.com
Washington
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stars.com
(+1)202.886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stars.com
Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stars.com
+81-42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380
Washington
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stars.com
(+1)202.886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stars.com

CONTRIBUTOR

Mideast
Robert Reisman, Mideast Contribution Manager
robert.reisman.naf@gmail.com
xscruciation@stars.com
DSN (315)83-9111
Europe
Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stars.com
karen.lewis@stars.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (315)83.9090
Pacific
Mark Mori, Customer Help@stars.com
+81-3 6385.3171, DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington
Tel: (+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters
letters@stars.com

Additional contacts
stars.com/contactus

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OPINION

6 reasons for optimism on COVID-19

By JOSEPH G. ALLEN
Special to The Washington Post

These days of rising cases, hospitalizations and now surging deaths can be overwhelming. To help get through this storm, we must keep track of positive developments, too.

Here are six positive developments to remind us that there is hope in this crisis:

1. Therapeutic treatments (in addition to what we already have for the most sick patients) will arrive before vaccines. When someone contracts the new coronavirus, his or her body's immune system launches a defense, including producing antibodies that circulate in the blood to help identify infectious invaders. These circulating antibodies offer some protection against future infection (for how long, we still don't know). Scientists have now engineered clones of these antibodies — what we call monoclonal antibodies — and they are showing to be effective both therapeutically and to prevent infection. They work by attacking the spike protein of the coronavirus, which is how this virus gets into our cells. Stop that from happening, and the virus can't replicate inside the body.

2. Rapid, low-cost saliva tests are also coming, and, as my colleague Michael Mina and Laurence Kotlikoff recently pointed out, they are a game-changer. Why? These are like home pregnancy tests but for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus. Imagine a test you could take at home every day, that gives you an answer in a few minutes after spitting into a vial and costs only \$1 to \$5. Such a test would change our ability to slow outbreaks where early detection is everything. It would also help consumer confidence and slow down this economic crisis. Want to go

to school or work or a Broadway production? Show that your rapid test was negative. These tests are not perfectly accurate, but the counterintuitive part is that they don't have to be. More important than accuracy are speed and frequency of testing.

3. The debate is finally over: Masks work. It took three months, but widespread mask-wearing is catching on. What was once awkward and unusual (in the United States, anyway) has now become more accepted. More states and businesses are requiring them. And, what was once political — thanks to our president who said people were wearing masks only to make him look bad — is quickly becoming common sense. We now see leaders in red states urging mask-wearing. (Not all masks are created equal, so fortunately, there is now guidance on what constitutes a good mask.)

4. Consensus has finally emerged that airborne spread is happening. Scientists in my field have been warning about this for months (I have argued that airborne transmission is linked to super-spreader events), yet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization have consistently failed to recognize this. This week, the tide turned when 239 scientists signed a letter to the WHO urging it to acknowledge airborne transmission. And that's exactly what the WHO did. This means that there will be more messaging coming out from the WHO and other organizations recommending that people add a new control to their toolkit for fighting this virus — healthy burial strategies, such as higher ventilation, better filtration and the use of portable air-cleaning devices.

5. There is some science showing that past exposure to common-cold coronaviruses might be playing a protective role for some people. This is a big claim — and

I should caution that it is not fully resolved — but several studies are now showing that 20% to 50% of people who had never been exposed to the new coronavirus have immune cells known as memory T cells — in their body that react to this new virus. The speculation is that this is due to prior exposure to common-cold coronaviruses. We still don't know why some people fare better than others, or why a few spread the disease to many while others do not spread it at all, but these findings might hold some answers to those questions.

6. Vaccine trials seem to be working, and drug manufacturers have already said they might be able to deliver doses by October. Remember, it was not a given that vaccines would work, so the fact that the early-stage clinical trials are showing positive signs is encouraging. Also a reminder that this is lightning-fast; if we get a vaccine within 12 months, that will be the quickest vaccine ever developed — by several years. There is an important caveat: My colleague Juliette Kayeem likes to point out that vaccines don't save people, vaccinations do. Once we have a vaccine, the hard task of manufacturing and distributing it comes into play. So, while the signs on vaccines are good, and we might have data in hand in a few months that they work, it will still be a few more months until people have the opportunity to actually receive the vaccine.

For the first time in history, nearly every scientist in the world is focused on the same problem. This is starting to pay real dividends.

Joseph G. Allen is an assistant professor of exposure assessment science and director of the Healthy Buildings program at Harvard University's T.H. Chan School of Public Health and co-author of "Healthy Buildings: How Indoor Spaces Drive Performance and Productivity."

Law and order are impossible without social justice

By DAVID IGNATIUS
Washington Post Writers Group

It's laughable, really, that President Donald Trump is presenting himself as the candidate of "law and order" in the 2020 presidential campaign.

His record in office has been one of illegality and disorder.

Trump's presidency has been a sustained attack on our traditional conception of the rule of law in America. He has sought increasingly to govern by executive mandate — on immigration, foreign policy, health care, and environmental and economic policy. He defies Congress and the courts almost on a weekly basis.

Trump's contempt for the law was obvious in his granting of clemency last week to his campaign crony Roger Stone. The best summary came from Britt Romney, R-Utah, who just eight years ago was the presidential nominee of a Republican Party that hadn't surrendered its values: "Unprecedented, historic corruption: an American president commutes the sentence of a person convicted by a jury of lying to shield that very president."

And yet Trump postures as the tough guy who will protect the nation. Since the beginning of June, he has tweeted or retweeted the phrase "law and order" 33 times, often just the three words, in capital letters, with an exclamation point. Democrats sometimes make it easy for him by pushing slogans such as "Defund the Police" or "Abolish ICE" that Trump then uses to play on public fears.

Glenn Kessler, The Washington Post's

Fact Checker, noted Tuesday that the Trump campaign has spent \$6.7 million to run an ad in 12 battleground states that claims: "Joe Biden's supporters are fighting to defend police departments. Violent crime has exploded. You won't be safe in Joe Biden's America." In awarding the ad four Pinocchios, Kessler noted that the former vice president had actually said in early June, "No, I don't support defunding the police."

Biden, the presumptive Democratic candidate, shouldn't cede this ground. He should make the case that real law and order are impossible without social justice. Conservatives shouldn't own this theme any more than they do the American flag. A lawful and orderly America is also one that advances racial and economic equality.

Trump's populism involves a sleight of hand. He's the billionaire who claims he's standing up for the little guy, even as he advocates tax policies rewarding the rich. He claims to be the champion of the military and law enforcement, even as he undermines the independence of both.

Trump is about raw power — the kind that comes from ignoring the rule of law. That's what he shares with strongman presidents such as China's Xi Jinping, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan. None of them let rules or past practices get in the way of exercising their political will. When Erdogan declares that the Hagia Sophia won't be a museum anymore but a mosque, the rationale for this usurpation is simple: Because I can.

Watching Trump and his fellow lawbreakers at work, we're reminded what a thin membrane the rule of law really

is. Just on the other side is the domain of power and plunder, where every political action is a test of strength — where might makes right, as the aphorism goes. That has been Trump's code in his business life, and now in his presidency.

America isn't Colombia or Mexico. But if you've ever watched the Netflix drama "Narcos," you can see how hard it is to restore the rule of law once it breaks down. When judges and politicians are intimidated into silence and ignore illegality, it requires very brave people to step back control.

I've worked abroad as a journalist in countries where the rule of plunder applied. In such places, where people are prey to warlords and fixers, and courts have collapsed, the law vanishes and extremists provide their own version of order.

Two snapshots. It's June 2011 in Khost, Afghanistan, and Brig. Gen. Mark Martins is showing me a map of the Afghan districts that don't have government judges or prosecutors; then he shows me a map of districts where the Taliban is strong. They're the same map. Or it's October 2003 in Fallujah, Iraq, and Sheikh Khaimis Hassanawi is explaining to me what will happen if American troops leave quickly and the extremists take over: "The strong will eat the weak and people will start killing each other in the streets," he says.

Those ravaged, lawless states are not America. But the next time you hear Trump talk about law and order, remember that it's a code for maintaining his personal power. Three words that Biden should embrace: Law, order and justice.

OPINION

Rulings respect the mindset of the faithful

BY WILLIAM J. HAUN

Special to The Washington Post

Religious organizations perform crucial public services — educating children, caring for the sick, sheltering the homeless. Yet changing mores have led governments to increasingly demand that these organizations subordinate their beliefs as a condition of continuing these missions. In three recent Supreme Court cases, the justices have ruled that religious groups participate in public life while still determining for themselves how they operate and how they live their beliefs?

In all three cases — two of which were brought by my firm, the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty — the court affirmed religious groups' right to participate in public life while upholding their beliefs. In doing so, the court likely has forestalled the prospect of a zero-sum showdown that has made debates over religious liberty needlessly toxic.

In *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania*, decided July 8, the ministry of nuns who care for the elderly poor was at stake. Being Catholic nuns, they objected to a federal mandate issued pursuant to the Affordable Care Act requiring that employers provide insurance coverage for contraception and abortifacients and said the government's proposed workarounds still required their moral complicity in actions they opposed. The Obama administration argued that the sisters were not, in fact, burdened by the mandate but were "fighting an invisible dragon." The government tried to force the nuns to pay what they said would amount to \$70 million in annual fines for their moral complicity in actions they opposed. The Trump administration, by contrast, issued broad protections against the contraceptive mandate for employers objecting because of "sincerely held religious beliefs." But Pennsylvania and New Jersey sued, claiming those safeguards were inadequate. This week, the Supreme Court held that the administration could legally offer these protections.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Tom Alexander holds a cross as he prays prior to rulings outside the U.S. Supreme Court on July 8. In three recent cases, including two decided on July 8, the high court affirmed religious groups' right to participate in public life while upholding their beliefs.

Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru, also decided July 8, confirmed that the autonomy the Constitution affords religious organizations includes deciding who teaches religion at Catholic elementary schools. The two teachers at issue claimed they were wrongly not offered new annual contracts — one allegedly because of disability discrimination and the other because of age discrimination. The schools disputed those claims and countered that the teachers' responsibilities included religious instruction and so, under the First Amendment's "ministerial exception," federal anti-discrimination law is inapplicable. The court held that the "ministerial exception" indeed place employment decisions about these religion teachers in the hands of religious institutions, not civil courts.

In *Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue*, decided June 30, Montana's Supreme Court had struck down a scholarship program that allowed the state students to attend the school of their choice. Why? Because the state constitution contained a

provision, rooted in anti-Catholic bigotry, denying "sectarian" schools equal access to public programs. The Supreme Court said this exclusion of religious schools was inconsistent with the Constitution's free-exercise clause.

In each case, the Supreme Court held that religious groups are free to maintain their public ministries — without surrendering to the government the power to decide how they are governed or what they believe. These decisions extended a promising trend: In the past decade, the Supreme Court has heard 15 religious-freedom cases, and in every one it protected religious claimants against government efforts to limit their activities because of their beliefs.

In taking this approach, the court is confirming that a truly free society must preserve space for religious organizations to provide public services while adhering to their beliefs alongside broader policymaking that might be at odds with those beliefs. In *Little Sisters*, the court preserved the contraceptive-coverage mandate for most

employers. But it also allowed the Trump administration power to protect the *Little Sisters* from having to participate. In *Bostock v. Clayton County*, decided last month, the court ruled that the Civil Rights Act bars employers from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender identity, which could threaten religious organizations. But in *Our Lady of Guadalupe*, the court also ensured that, on the foundational question of who may teach religion, religious institutions are free to decide for themselves. And in *Espinoza*, the court held that if secular schools are being supported in their efforts to educate needy children, there must be space for religious schools, too.

In other words, the court is demonstrating that disputes over religious liberty need not be winner-take-all.

While the court has clearly ruled in favor of religious liberty over the past decade, this debate likely will remain central to the justices' work in the years to come. As soon as this fall, they will hear another Becket case, *Concordia University of Philadelphia* — which will address whether the city can shut down Catholic Social Services' foster care ministry because the agency, consistent with Catholic beliefs, cannot provide written endorsements of same-sex marriages. If asked, the agency would refer a same-sex couple to one of 29 other agencies, including several with expertise in serving LGBTQ families. But for the city of Philadelphia, this accommodation is not enough.

The court's recent decisions suggest that in *Fulton*, too, the justices will encourage religious Americans and those who disagree with them to live and let live. If they do, the justices will hopefully help people on all sides produce a healthier and more respectful political climate.

William J. Haun is counsel at the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, which represented the *Little Sisters of the Poor*, Our Lady of Guadalupe School and St. James Catholic School, and also represents Catholic Social Services, before the Supreme Court.

Civil servants are professionals, not a 'deep state'

BY RUSSELL E. TRAVERS

Special to The Washington Post

Retired from the federal civil service this month, my 42-year career began during the Carter administration and involved service to seven presidents: four Republicans and three Democrats. Most recently, I had the privilege of leading the dedicated professionals of the National Counterterrorism Center, over the past several years, the Department of Homeland Security as "a bunch of Democrats." I was referred to at a White House meeting as "an Obama holdover." That's technically true, insofar as I was an Obama/Bush/Clinton/Bush/Reagan/Carter holdover. But in a broader sense, it was utter nonsense.

Given all this, it was tremendously disconcerting to hear continued references to an alleged "deep state" and to personally have heard a senior official dismiss the neocolonial staff of the Department of Homeland Security as "a bunch of Democrats." I was referred to at a White House meeting as "an Obama holdover." That's technically true, insofar as I was an Obama/Bush/Clinton/Bush/Reagan/Carter holdover. But in a broader sense, it was utter nonsense.

Yes, the federal bureaucracy can be frus-

trating, even stultifying. A workforce of more than 2 million people, though broadly competent and hard-working, inevitably has poor performers. Some undoubtedly have acted illegally. Organizations may be overly focused on turf; on occasion, it felt as though I was spending more time fending off the bureaucracy than fending off terrorists. Discouraging, to be sure. But there is nothing approaching the kind of malfeasance that would justify broad-brush accusations of a "deep state."

The federal bureaucracy's institutional responsibilities can put it at odds with political leadership. The intelligence community strives to get the facts straight and to provide objective analysis. Most often correct, but certainly not perfect, intelligence informs the national risk equation and attempts to keep the policy debate intellectually honest. This is particularly important in a world in which fiction routinely passes for fact. If the intelligence community needs to correct understatements of threat (no, Islamic State is not defeated) or correct overstatements of threat (no, data doesn't suggest a significant threat from refugees), that's not a "deep state" undermining the president; that's a professional civil service doing its job. Just like the civil servants at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Justice Department and everywhere else in the government.

A century ago, Walter Lippmann and John Dewey debated the manner in which democracy functions. They agreed that an idyllic, Jeffersonian notion of an informed electorate choosing its leaders simply didn't exist. Factors they saw militating against Jefferson's narrative included a complicated world; difficulty establishing "facts"; large portions of an electorate that, busy living their lives, were often uninformed; and elected officials who may not be up to the task. Lippmann and Dewey didn't agree on a solution, but they recognized the critical role of expertise.

The Lippmann-Dewey critique is truer today, in our extraordinarily complicated world, than it was during the 1920s. Misinformation and intense polarization dominate, with education lacking in both civics and critical-thinking skills. In this environment, federal bureaucratic expertise — devoid of passion or prejudice — is an ever more critical prerequisite for administering federal responsibilities, providing transparency, and informing both the body politic and policymakers. I depart government service more convinced than ever that a professional, highly competent, nonpartisan civil service is essential for the success of this great American experiment, as are the scientific community, an objective Fourth Estate, academia and others.

Now, elections have consequences. While

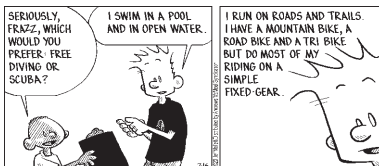
aspects of government operations run as though on autopilot, civil service technocrats will always operate under political direction, fulfilling statutory responsibilities within a wide range of legal policy choices. But I would respectfully offer a gentle observation to my political colleagues. Policymakers tend to hold their own opinions in high regard. This is sometimes warranted, sometimes not. They would often benefit from listening a little more. The civil service is here to assist duly elected representatives, and appointees administer the government. Those who use the available expertise to inform their decision-making are invariably more successful than those who don't.

This country has its hands full. As Americans grapple with the legacy of our historical demons, our failures to address the needs of large swaths of our population and the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic, we still need to confront longstanding questions about our nation's role in the world, the interconnected nature of global challenges and even the adequacy of our governmental system. Theodore Roosevelt said, we need people "in the arena" working these issues; our civil servants do exactly that.

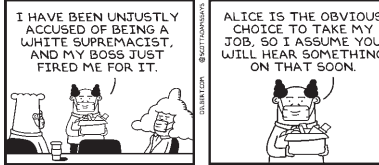
It has been a privilege to serve.

Russell E. Travers retired from the civil service this month after being removed as the acting director of the National Counterterrorism Center.

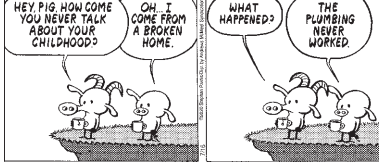
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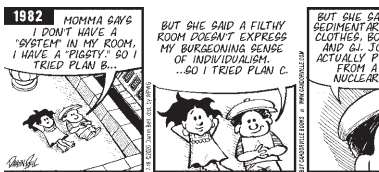
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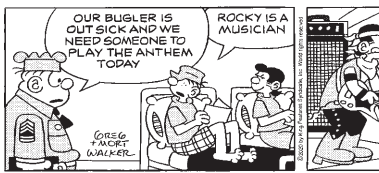
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Wine valley
- 5 TV spots
- 8 Nile wader
- 12 Honolulu's isle
- 13 Documentarian
- 14 Extended lunch?
- 15 Crossword diagram
- 16 "As I see it," to a texter
- 17 Flair
- 18 Do a film editor's job
- 22 Off-stuffed vegetable
- 26 Kitchen gathering place
- 29 Succor
- 30 Sch. founded by Jefferson
- 31 Follow orders
- 32 "Alice" waitress
- 33 Coin toss
- 34 Actor/director
- 35 Big D.C. lobby
- 36 Surveys
- 37 Church features
- 40 Actor Travolta
- 41 Help secure a loan
- 45 Lady of the haws
- 47 Eastern "way"
- 49 Not busy
- 50 Grime

DOWN

- 1 Egg y drinks
- 2 Seniors' org.
- 3 Dr. McGraw
- 4 Aloud
- 5 "The Tempest" sprite
- 6 Poorly lit
- 7 Sign after Libra
- 8 "May — you?"
- 9 Servant
- 10 Roth svgs. plan
- 11 Junior
- 19 Middling grade
- 21 British ref. work
- 23 Susan Dey TV series
- 24 Wickied
- 25 Knocks
- 26 Mausoleum
- 27 Busy as —
- 28 Protective glass cases
- 32 Led, as a band
- 33 Dinosaur
- 34 remnants
- 35 Ultimate
- 36 Expert
- 38 Oafs
- 39 Paris school
- 42 Notion
- 43 Hidden valley
- 44 Loch — monster
- 45 New Deal pres.
- 46 Carnival city
- 48 Will Smith biopic

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOQUIP

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G J I K O M G I L F H Z J H S E V K N O

NRJSSN: HJNVMGW-JHJSSK.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF MASSES OF BEES AND GNATS APPEARED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, THAT WOULD BE GLOBAL SWARMING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals F

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Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES – Placed SS
Richie Martin on the 60-day IL. Optioned
RHP Hector Velazquez to Bowie Baysox.
SEATTLE MARINERS – Placed RHP Yo-
shi Hirano 10-day IL.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS – Placed RHP
Wilmer Font on 10-day IL.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES – Agreed to terms
with OF Yasiel Puig.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS – Activated
RHP Pedro Baez from the 10-day IL.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS – Agreed to a
four-year contract extension with DT
Chris Jones.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES – Signed LT
Jason Peters to a one-year contract.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS – Signed RW Troy
Terry to a three-year contract extension.
VANCOUVER CANUCKS – Sign D Jack
Rathbone to a three-year entry level con-

Pro soccer

MLS is Back tournament

GROUP A (EASTERN CONFERENCE)

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Orlando City	2	0	0	3	1	6
Philadelphia	2	0	0	3	1	6
Miami	0	0	2	2	4	0
New York City FC	0	0	2	1	4	0

Wednesday, July 8

Orlando City 2, Miami 1

Thursday, July 9

Philadelphia 1, New York City FC 0

Tuesday, July 14

Orlando City 3, New York City FC 1

Wednesday, July 15

New York City FC at Philadelphia

Monday, July 20

New York City FC at Philadelphia

Tuesday, July 21

Orlando City at Philadelphia

Wednesday, July 22

Chicago 2, Seattle 1

Thursday, July 23

Vancouver at Seattle

Friday, July 24

San Jose at Chicago

Saturday, July 25

San Jose at Vancouver

Sunday, July 26

San Jose at Chicago

Monday, July 27

Vancouver at Seattle

Tuesday, July 28

Vancouver at Seattle

Wednesday, July 29

New England at Montreal

Thursday, July 30

D.C. United at Toronto FC

Friday, July 31

Toronto FC at Montreal

Saturday, July 1

New England at D.C. United

Sunday, July 2

New England at Montreal

Monday, July 3

Toronto FC at Montreal

Tuesday, July 4

New England at Montreal

Wednesday, July 5

Real Salt Lake at Minnesota

Thursday, July 6

Minnesota at Sporting KC

Friday, July 7

Real Salt Lake at Colorado

Saturday, July 8

Colorado at Real Salt Lake

Sunday, July 9

Minnesota at Sporting KC

Monday, July 10

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Minnesota at Sporting KC

Sunday, October 29

NBA



DUSAN VRANIC/AP

Mike D'Antoni, left, and Nate McMillan watch during a game at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Both were United States assistant coaches and spent an extended stretch away from home during the summer. While unprecedented as part of an NBA season, it isn't exactly a foreign concept for those with USA Basketball experience like the Olympics and the World Cup.

Some have experience with a long summer road trip

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

FLAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Formulating a plan to get a team ready for the restart of the NBA season wasn't as difficult as one might expect for Indiana coach Nate McMillan.

Turns out, he's been through something similar to this before.

Spending an extended stretch away from home during the summer, while unprecedented as part of an NBA season, isn't exactly a foreign concept for those with USA Basketball experience like the Olympics and the World Cup. Plenty of players and coaches at Walt Disney World see parallels between those experiences and this challenge.

"I had that opportunity to work with the Olympic team and preparation was very similar to what we're going through here,"

'I had that opportunity to work with the Olympic team and preparation was very similar to what we're going through here.'

Nate McMillan
Pacers coach

said Toronto guard Kyle Lowry, who was part of the U.S. gold-medal-winning team at the Olympics in 2016. "In Rio it was a lot more strict and tighter because we were living on a boat. That experience was pretty awesome. ... But living on a boat, to be in a smaller room and not have as many amenities it really kind of prepared me for this."

Even players who have been part of USA Basketball's events for younger players, like Under-18 or Under-19 tournaments internationally, know the drill when it comes to living in a hotel for a few weeks and not having a lot of latitude when it comes

to being free to roam. Players at Disney cannot leave the campus because of coronavirus protocols, though the league has made plenty of entertainment options — fishing, golf, boating, table tennis and more — available to them.

Houston coach Mike D'Antoni said he would follow much of the same policies that the U.S. program used when he was an assistant on those national-team staffs, such as a heavy reliance on medical personnel to determine what days to have a hard practice and what days to take it a bit easier. Phoenix coach Monty Williams said he also refreshed his memory on national-team days when putting together a plan for his team's stay at Disney.

"It has forced me to dig into the archives of that time with USA Basketball," said Williams, another former national team assistant under Krzyzewski. "I've heard a lot of the players say that it reminds them of AAU, but for me it reminds me so much of my time in Spain at the World Cup. It's a bit longer than the Olympics ... and you have a lot of free time."

Pacers center Myles Turner was with the U.S. team that competed in China last summer at the World Cup, a group that spent more than seven weeks together between training camp, exhibition games in the U.S. and Australia, and then the tournament itself.

The Pacers have clinched a playoff spot, so they're assured of spending at least seven weeks at Disney this summer. It's another long summer for Turner, and he's not complaining.

"There is a lot of similarity in how it's set up, but for me personally, I just think that it's a great time for everybody to kind of stay focused," Turner said. "There's no distractions. Everybody's locked in and focused. So, there's really not a lot that can go wrong in a basketball sense."

One difference at Disney is that nobody has family members with them until at least the second round of the playoffs. At an Olympics, it's typical for family and friends to make the trip — and at last year's World Cup, a small number of players also made arrangements for family to join them in China.

"This is a little bit different than that, but certainly the timing is similar and the timing for us as far as preparation is probably more like a FIBA-type schedule than it is like a training camp," Boston coach Brad Stevens said. "You're practicing for a couple weeks and then you're playing a few games and then it really, really counts."

Barnes joins list of players still home with virus

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Harrison Barnes of the Sacramento Kings became the latest NBA player to reveal that he has the coronavirus, making the announcement Tuesday and saying he has hopes to join his team for the league's restart later this summer.

Barnes is the only player who has started all 64 of the Kings' games this season. To extend that streak, he'll need to be cleared and arrive at Walt Disney World before Sacramento's season resumes with the first of its eight seeding games on July 31 against San Antonio.

"Prior to the team leaving last week, I tested positive for Covid-19," Barnes wrote on social media. "I've been primarily asymptomatic and am doing well. I'm quarantined and am abiding by the safety protocol until I'm cleared for action. I hope to join my team in Orlando when it is safe to do so! Stay safe out there."

Barnes is averaging 14.7 points this season for the Kings.

The league said Monday that 19 players tested positive during in-market testing after July 1, those tests being done before teams began arriving at Disney on July 7. Based on the timetable Barnes used in his message, it's likely that he was one of those 19 players in the NBA's latest count.

The Kings have gotten Buddy Hield and Jabari Parker back after each had positive tests. Alex Len, however, remains out after his positive test, and now Barnes is in that situation as well.

"We have to prepare as if we're not going to have either one of those guys," Sacramento coach

Luke Walton said. "That's just getting ready for whatever the worst-case scenario may be."

Denver's Nikola Jokic, who tested positive last month, is now at Disney and the Nuggets are waiting to see when the All-Star is going to be cleared to get on the floor.

"I have seen Nikola. It's been somewhat limited and his interaction with his teammates and other coaches has been very limited as well," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said Tuesday night. "That's kind of where we're at with it right now."

Houston's Russell Westbrook said Monday that he has tested positive and has yet to join the Rockets at Disney. Many players have chosen to not make their diagnosis public, including two players who tested positive after arriving at Disney last week — but never got out of quarantine and into the NBA's so-called bubble.

"This is the reality of the world that we're living in right now, with the virus," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We're putting together something that we think really is safe and has everybody's health as the No. 1 priority. But we know that nothing is 100 percent guaranteed. You have to adhere to the protocols. Everybody has to be mindful of it and respect what we're trying to get done here."

Heat forward Derrick Jones Jr., who tested positive for the virus last month and has since recovered to be part of Miami's workouts at Disney, said he never exhibited any signs of illness.

"Physically, I felt great," Jones said. "I never felt a symptom at all."



NIKKI BOERTMAN/AP

Sacramento Kings forward Harrison Barnes, right, became the latest NBA player to reveal that he has coronavirus, making the announcement Tuesday and saying he has hopes to join his team at the league's restart later this summer.

SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB

Briefly

4 games per day in group stage of 2022 World Cup

Associated Press

LONDON — The 2022 World Cup will have four games every day in a 12-day group stage and matches later in the tournament that go into extra time will extend past midnight in Qatar.

FIFA released the schedule for the first World Cup to be played in November and December on Wednesday, with kickoff times every three hours beginning at 1 p.m. (1000 GMT).

"Once the pairings are known, the possibility will be discussed of providing a more beneficial kickoff time for audiences at home, or indeed for fans in Qatar with regard to the stadium allocation," FIFA said in a statement.

Host Qatar will open the Middle East's first World Cup in the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium at 1 p.m. on Nov. 21. The final starts at 8 p.m. on Dec. 18 at the 80,000-capacity Lusail Stadium. Those are the same kickoff times from the last World Cup in Russia.

Eight venues in close proximity to Doha will be used at the tournament, which will be played in 28 days rather than the 32 days used in Russia to minimize the disruption to the European season. Teams and fans will not need to fly around Qatar because stadiums are within a 30-mile radius.

FIFA is looking to stage the draw for the tournament in late March or early April 2022, when 30 of the 32 finalists will be known.

It is the last World Cup with 32 teams before the expansion to 48 nations at the 2026 tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Source: Browns close to Garrett extension

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns are closing in on a contract extension with star defensive end Myles Garrett, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Garrett, the No. 1 overall pick in 2017 and one of the NFL's top edge rushers, and the team could have the deal completed in the next day or so, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

NFL Network reported the extension could be for five years and \$125 million, which would make Garrett the league's highest-paid defensive player. The Browns have been discussing the extension with Garrett and his representatives for months.

The Browns view him as one of the franchise's cornerstone players who has only begun to reach his potential.

Garrett has recorded 30½ ca-

reer sacks in 37 games for Cleveland. He had 10 sacks in 10 games last season and was on his way to making another Pro Bowl when he was suspended by the league for the final six games after he pulled off Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph's helmet and struck him in the head with it. Commissioner Roger Goodell reinstated Garrett in February.

Chiefs, Jones agree to 4-year, \$85M extension

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs and Pro Bowl defensive tackle Chris Jones agreed to a four-year contract that could be worth up to \$85 million on Tuesday, the latest in a lavish spending spree by the Super Bowl champions as they continue to lock up their core pieces as training camp approaches.

The deal for Jones, which comes on the heels of a record-setting 10-year extension for quarterback Patrick Mahomes, includes \$60 million in guarantees, a person familiar with the terms told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Chiefs had not announced the extension.

The two sides had been working on an extension since last year. But they were never very close, even when Jones showed his displeasure by skipping the entirety of the offseason program — including the mandatory summer minicamp.

The length of Jones' contract works out for the Chiefs in that it expires before the big-money years begin for Mahomes, whose baseball-like contract could surpass \$500 million total over the 12 years that he is under contract.

In other NFL news:

■ The Green Bay Packers say they won't admit fans to any training camp practices or preseason home games due to the coronavirus pandemic.

This also applies to the annual Packers Family Night, an annual event that features a practice and other activities. The Family Night event will still take place at Lambeau Field and will be televisestatewide, though the date and time haven't been announced yet.

Plans regarding attendance for regular-season games haven't been announced yet.

■ The Philadelphia Eagles won't be allowed to have fans in the stadium for the NFL playoffs games this season.

The city banned all large public events that require public permits through February 2021. Teams will be permitted to play without fans in Philadelphia.

The Phillies will host the Miami Marlins next weekend when the major league baseball season begins.

■ The New England Patriots have joined a growing list of NFL teams who hope to play home games this season in front of a significantly reduced number of fans to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The team announced Tuesday that it plans to play in front of about 20% of Gillette Stadium's capacity, if approved by state and local officials. The stadium's capacity is just under 66,000.

The Patriots also informed season ticket holders that if fans are allowed at the stadium, they will be asked to adhere to physical distancing of at least six feet. Tickets will be arranged in blocks of 10 seats or fewer, with the first eight rows of the stadium not in use. Face coverings will also be required at all times, parking for home games will be free at all Gillette Stadium lots, and all tickets will be mobile.

SEC delays start of fall sports except football

The Southeastern Conference is postponing the start of volleyball, soccer and cross country competition through at least the end of August because of COVID-19.

The league says that provides more time to prepare for a safe return to competition on an adjusted timeline. The decision includes all exhibition and non-conference games.

Each school will be responsible for any rescheduling of non-conference contests impacted by the postponement.

The league hasn't made any announcement on the football season. The Big Ten and Pac-12 have opted to only play conference games.

The SEC's 14 athletic directors convened Monday at league headquarters in Alabama to discuss fall sports.

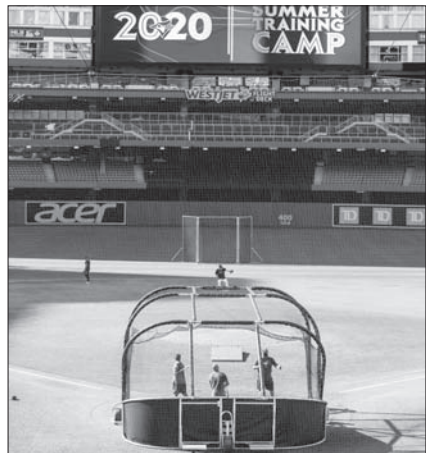
In other college news:

■ The University of Michigan says fewer fans, if any, will attend games at "The Big House" if the Wolverines play college football games this year.

The athletic department says a final decision will be made after conferring with medical experts, the school's leadership and the Big Ten Conference, along with government officials and agencies.

■ Florida athletic director Scott Stricklin said Tuesday during a Zoom call with reporters that the team will be made after the coronavirus last month.

Stricklin says he was initially mad at himself after the diagnosis because "I thought I was being careful." He said he had about 48 hours where he felt really crummy and probably another three or four days where he didn't feel like doing much before going back to normal.



CARLOS OSORIO, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Blue Jays take batting practice in Toronto on Thursday. The Canadian government still hasn't approved games in Canada.

Jays might need long homestands to get OK for games in Toronto

By ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO — A top Canadian government health official says the Blue Jays might want to consider hosting an extended stretch of home games in order to get approval to play in Toronto amid the pandemic.

Dr. Howard Njoo, Canada's Deputy Chief Public Health Officer, said Tuesday that back and forth travel from the United States, where coronavirus cases are surging, is a major issue that could prevent the government from approving Major League Baseball to play in Canada.

"The fact of the matter is today in Canada we've done a good job of flattening our curve. The situation doesn't appear to be changing quickly in the U.S.," Njoo said.

Njoo noted Canada has been reporting about 300 cases per day compared to 60,000 per day in the U.S.

Njoo said discussions with the Blue Jays and MLB continue and the government is always open.

The Blue Jays are scheduled to open the season July 24 at Tampa Bay. The home opener is listed as July 29 against Washington.

"We're seeing what's in the realm of possible," Njoo said. "I could get myself in trouble but I'm going to say it anyway. Look at the epidemiology of COVID-19 in Canada. I know the schedule has already been set for the Blue Jays, but in trying to respect the quarantine and keeping players safe, I don't know, maybe one option is the Blue Jays staying in Canada for an extended period of time and playing a quite a long series of games."

Such a change would require a change in MLB's schedule and would mean opposing teams flying to Canada for what would have been home games in their home ball parks.

MLB requires an exemption to a requirement that anyone entering Canada for nonessential reasons must self-isolate for 14 days. The U.S.-Canada border remains closed to nonessential travel and the two countries are poised to extend their agreement to Aug. 21, but a final confirmation has not been given, a person familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

The Blue Jays have said they prefer to play in Toronto. Their training facility in Dunedin, Fla., has been mentioned as an alternative if they are not given an exemption to play in Toronto. But Florida is seeing a record surge in COVID-19 cases.

"This whole year has been super crazy. We're hopeful that we can play in Toronto but we know that can change," infielder Cavan Biggio said. "It is something we're not trying to worry too much about."

Governments in Canada allowed the team to move their summer camp from their training complex in Dunedin, as the Blue Jays created a quarantine environment at Rogers Centre in Toronto and the adjoining Toronto Marriott City Centre Hotel, which overlooks the field. Players are not allowed to leave the stadium or hotel and face fines or jail time if they do.

Blue Jays President Mark Shapiro has said visiting teams would not leave the confines of Rogers Centre and the hotel attached to the stadium if the regular season plan is approved.

MLB

Puig picks Braves; Glasnow joins Rays

Opening day rosters taking shape

By CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

Opening day rosters gained clarity on Tuesday when the Atlanta Braves reached an agreement with Yasiel Puig, and Tampa Bay pitcher Tyler Glasnow provided hopes for teams awaiting players to be cleared following positive tests for the coronavirus.

Puig agreed to a one-year deal pending a physical, a person with knowledge of the agreement told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement is not official until Puig passes the physical.

The 29-year-old Puig, who began his career with the Los Angeles Dodgers, hit a combined .267 with 24 homers and 84 RBIs for Cincinnati and Cleveland in 2019. He also stole 19 bases.

Puig was the last big-name free agent from the offseason who had not signed with a team. He helps the Braves fill a void left when Nick Markakis opted out for the season.

Glasnow rejoined the Rays after missing the first 11 days of summer camp following his positive test. The right-hander immediately jumped into a simulated game at Tropicana Field and threw 49 pitches over 3½ innings.

Glasnow said he felt fine and expects to be ready to begin the 60-game season on time.

Mets second baseman Robinson Cano also returned to camp after missing five straight workouts for undisclosed reasons. The 37-year-old Cano was scheduled to participate in practice, but not

the intrasquad game on night.

Mets relief pitchers Brad Brach and Jared Hughes remained absent.

Also returning was Orioles outfielder Anthony Santander, whose late arrival might have been attributed to COVID-19 testing. The team has not provided an explanation.

Santander, who hit 20 home runs last year, is a projected starter. The short-handed outfield is without slugger Trey Mancini, who had colon cancer surgery in March. Dwight Smith Jr. has not yet reported, for reasons not disclosed by the Orioles.

Springer held out: Houston outfielder George Springer missed practice because of a delay in receiving his coronavirus test results, the latest in a series of testing snafus for the Astros.

They were forced to cancel their practice on July 6 because the Fourth of July holiday delayed test results. Third baseman Alex Bregman was held out of practice last week because he hadn't received his test results.

A little scared: Marlins catcher Francisco Cervelli said "everybody is concerned" about the virus outbreak in South Florida. "I don't want to have this virus, or anyone on my team," Cervelli said. "We just have to be careful. We don't know what's going to happen. Every day here Miami is getting crazy. I'm a little scared, yes, but we're here to play baseball."

More than a little scared: White Sox catcher Yasmani Grandal is concerned about being unable to maintain proper social distance



PHIL LONG/AP

Yasiel Puig hits a three-run double in 2019 while playing for the Cleveland Indians. The free agent outfielder and the Atlanta Braves agreed to a one-year deal, pending a physical.

ing behind the plate.

"I'd be lying to you if I said I wasn't worried about it," Grandal said. "Obviously, this is something you've got to take very seriously because it can spread out as fast as anything. In my case, this is not only for my health and the health of my teammates, but it's also for the health of my family. My wife is pregnant, so I don't want (anything) to happen to her. I don't want (anything) to happen to my kids. So, we're going to take all the precautions we need in order to stay safe and keep ourselves safe."

DeShields baffled by positive

test: Indians outfielder Delino DeShields Jr. says he was taking every necessary precaution and still contracted the coronavirus while in Arizona.

"I was doing everything I was supposed to do," he said Tuesday. "We were doing a good job in Goodyear of keeping our distance and making sure we were cleaning up after ourselves. So, honestly, I have no idea."

DeShields missed the re-start of Cleveland's camp after he experienced COVID-19 symptoms, including a loss of taste and smell. He said he didn't have an appetite and added: "It wasn't fun at all. ...

It was pretty brutal."

Soroka gets opening day start: Manager Brian Snitker has named Mike Soroka, 22, the Braves' youngest opening day starter in the modern era. The Braves open at the New York Mets on July 24.

"It's something that you dream about as a kid," Soroka said.

The right-hander was 13-4 with a 2.68 ERA in 2019.

AP sports writers Dave Campbell, Jay Cohen, Mike Fitzpatrick, David Ginsburg, Beth Harris, Stephen Hawkins, Joe Kay, Steve Megargee, Steven Wine and Tom Withers contributed to this report.



MATT YORK/AP

Arizona Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo, left, talks with an umpire during an intrasquad game at practice Tuesday in Phoenix. Associated Press sources say about 10 umpires have opted out of the season due to concerns over the coronavirus.

Sources: About 10 umpires opt out over virus concerns

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

About 10 Major League Baseball umpires have opted out this season, choosing not to work games in the shortened schedule because of concerns over the coronavirus.

Two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press about the decisions on Tuesday. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because there was no official announcement.

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher David Price, San Francisco Giants catcher Buster Posey and Washington Nationals infielder Ryan Zimmerman are among a dozen or so players who won't participate this year because of health issues. The 60-game, virus-abbreviated season begins July 23.

There are 76 full-time MLB umpires and more than 20 of them are age 55 or over. Joe West and Gerry Davis are the oldest umpires at 67.

Umpires who are deemed at risk — either for their age, health situation or other issues — and opt out will continue to get paid. Umps get their salaries over 12 months and have already been paid

through April.

A deal between MLB and its umpires reached during the virus shutdown ensured that if even one regular-season game was played this season, the umpires were guaranteed 37.5% of their salaries.

Umpires recently began working intrasquad and simulated games at big league camps to sharpen up for the season. Teams are set to start exhibition games this week-end in preparation for opening day.

Minus 10 or more MLB umpires, many Triple-A umpires will work the two-month season. Most of them have previously called games in the majors as fill-ins for umpires who have been injured or are on vacation.

"It gives guys an opportunity," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "Some younger guys are going to get to be major league umpires for a season. That'll be fun."

Just as MLB redrew the schedule amid the virus outbreak, umpires are certain to see a shift, too. Crew assignments, travel arrangements and schedules were still under review at the start of the week.

AP sports writer Beth Harris contributed to this report.

SPORTS



Switching teams
Puig signs one-year deal
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COMMENTARY

'A very different world'

Woods' return doesn't mean return to normal

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ohio
The PGA Tour has been back for five weeks and already has delivered a tournament scoring record one week, a former No. 1 winning another week, two sudden-death playoffs and a player who grew by two shirt sizes to try to change the game. And it still felt as though something was missing. Or someone. That changed a few minutes past 7 a.m. Tuesday

when Tiger Woods pulled his courtesy car into the parking lot at Muirfield Village, changed his shoes and began preparations for his first PGA Tour event in five months.

He was wearing a mask.

The return of Woods is not the return to normal, except for those watching on television.

Woods had an idea of what to expect from seeing empty golf courses at Colonial and Harbour Town and even last week at Muirfield Village. He has heard from friends on tour how eerie it is with no

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Tiger Woods tees off on the 10th hole during the second round of the Genesis Invitational on Feb. 14 at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles. It was the last tournament Woods played in this year.

RYAN KANG / AP

Kings' Barnes still at home with COVID-19 » NBA, Page 21

